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(71) Applicant:

TOYOTA MOTOR CORP

(72) Inventor:

YOSHIZAKI KOJI ITO TAKAAKI

(54) EXHAUST EMISSION CONTROL DEVICE OF INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

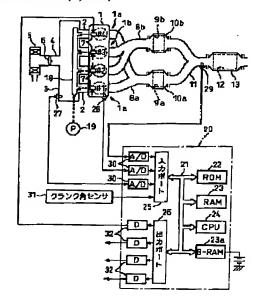
(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To supply those of highly dense hydrocarbon and oxigen to an exhaust emission purifying catalyzer without being consumed by another catalyzer at the time of engine starting as securing a good exhaust purifying action at the time of this engine starting.

SOLUTION: A cylinder train is divided into a first cylinder group 1a and a second cylinder group 1b, and each cylinder group is connected to two corresponding starting catalyzer 9a and 9b, then these starting catalyzers are connected to a NOx storing reduction catalyst 12 via a converging exhaust pipe 11. The state whether this reduction catalyst 12 is poisoned by sulfur content or not is judged, and when judged that it is poisoned, an air-fuel ratio of exhaust discharged out of the first cylinder group 1a is turned to the lean side, forming the exhaust inclusive of highly dense oxygen, and another air-fuel ratio of the exhaust discharged out of the second cylinder group 1b is turned to the rich side, forming the exhaust inclusive of highly dense hydrocarbon, and then these exhaust gases are fed to the NOx storing reduction catalyst 12. Simultaneously with

this, the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust flowing into this reduction catalyst 12 is turned to richness.

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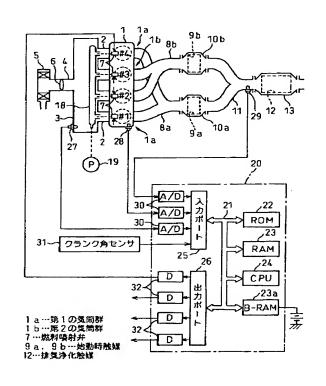
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						トヨタ自動車株式会社				
(22)出顧日		平成9年(1997)8月25日			愛知県	豊田市	トヨタ	町1番垣	也	
				(72) §	発明者	吉▲崎	▼ 康	=		
						爱知県 車株式		トヨタ	町1番埠	他 トヨタ自動
				(72) §	発明者					
				,				トヨタ	町1番組	色 トヨタ自動
						車株式			•	
				(74) f	人野分	弁理士		敬	多 3名	3)

(54) 【発明の名称】 内燃機関の排気浄化装置

(57) 【要約】

【課題】 機関始動時の良好な排気浄化作用を確保しつ つ高濃度のHCおよび酸素を始動時触媒で消費されるこ となく排気浄化触媒に供給する。

【解決手段】 気筒を第1の気筒群1aと第2の気筒群1bとに分割し、各気筒群を対応する始動時触媒9a,9bに接続し、これら始動時触媒を合流排気管11を介してNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に接続する。NOx吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分により被毒しているか否かを判断し、被毒していると判断されたときには第1の気筒群1aから排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにして高濃度の酸素を含む排気を形成し、第2の気筒群1bから排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにして高濃度のHCを含む排気を形成し、これら排気をNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に供給する。同時に、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気全体の空燃比をリッチにする。



【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】 気筒が複数の気筒群に分割されており、各気筒群が分岐排気通路を介して共通の合流排気通路に接続されると共に該合流排気通路内に排気浄化触媒が配置されており、これら気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにすることが可能な多気筒内燃機関において、各排気分岐通路内に始動時触媒を配置した内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項2】 前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記複数の気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにした請求項1に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項3】 気筒が複数の気筒群に分割されており、各気筒群に対し共通の合流排気通路内に排気浄化触媒が配置されており、これら気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにすることが可能な多気筒内燃機関において、合流排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置し、該始動時触媒を迂回して各気筒群と前記排気浄化触媒とを接続可能なバイパス通路を設けた内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項4】 前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記複数の気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、前記バイパス通路により各気筒群から排出される排気を一時的に前記始動時触媒を迂回して排気浄化触媒に導き、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにした請求項3に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項5】 機関から排出される排気の空燃比がリーンである内燃機関の排気通路内に排気浄化触媒を配置し、該排気浄化触媒上流の排気通路に炭化水素供給口を接続し、該炭化水素供給口から排気浄化触媒に炭化水素を供給するようにした内燃機関において、炭化水素供給口上流の排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置した内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項6】 前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記炭化水素供給口から排気浄化触媒に炭化水素を一時的に供給し、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにした請求項5に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項7】 機関から排出される排気の空燃比がリッチである内燃機関の排気通路内に排気浄化触媒を配置し、該排気浄化触媒上流の排気通路に2次空気供給口を接続し、該2次空気供給口から排気浄化触媒に2次空気を供給するようにした内燃機関において、2次空気供給口上流の排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置した内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項8】 前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記2次空気供給口から排気浄化触媒に2次空気を一時的に供給し、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにした請求項7に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項9】 前記被毒判断手段は前記排気浄化触媒がイオウ分により被毒したか否かを判断する請求項2、4、6、および8のうちのいずれか一項に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項10】 前記排気浄化触媒が流入する排気の空燃比がリーンのときに流入する排気中のNOxを吸蔵し、流入する排気の空燃比がリッチとなると吸蔵しているNOxを放出して還元するNOx吸蔵還元触媒を具備し、該NOx吸蔵還元触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに該NOx吸蔵還元触媒の温度が予め定められた設定温度よりも高くなりかつ該NOx吸蔵還元触媒に流入する排気全体の空燃比がリッチとなるように各気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的に制御する請求項9に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【請求項11】 各気筒の燃焼室内に燃料噴射弁を配置 した請求項1または3に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装 置。

【請求項12】 前記燃料噴射弁が機関燃焼行程後期または排気行程に2次的に燃料噴射を行うことにより気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比がリッチとなるようにした請求項11に記載の内燃機関の排気浄化装置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は内燃機関の排気浄化 装置に関する。

[0002]

【従来の技術】排気通路内の或る位置よりも上流の排気通路内、燃焼室内、および吸気通路内に供給された全燃料量に対する全空気量の比をその位置を流通する排気の空燃比と称すると、従来より、リーン混合気を燃焼せしめるようにした内燃機関において、流入する排気の空燃比がリーンのときにNOxを吸蔵し、流入する排気中の酸素濃度が低くなると吸蔵しているNOxを放出するNOx吸蔵還元触媒を機関排気通路内に配置し、NOx吸蔵還元触媒内に流入する排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにしてNOx吸蔵還元触媒から吸蔵されているNOxを放出させると共に放出されたNOxを排気中の未燃炭化

水素(HC)や一酸化炭素(CO)などにより還元するようにした内燃機関が知られている。

【0003】ところが燃料および機関の潤滑油内にはイオウ分が含まれているので排気中にはイオウ分が含まれており、このイオウ分も例えばSO42-の形でNOxと共にNOx吸蔵還元触媒に吸蔵される。しかしながらこのイオウ分はNOx吸蔵還元触媒への流入する排気の空燃比をただ単にリッチにしてもNOx吸蔵還元触媒内のイオウ分の量は次第に増大することになる。ところがNOx吸蔵還元触媒内のイオウ分の量は次第に増大することになる。ところがNOx吸蔵還元触媒が吸蔵しうるNOxの量が次第に低下し、ついにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒がNOxをほとんど吸蔵できなくなる。

【0004】ところが、NOx吸蔵還元触媒の温度が高 いときにNOx吸蔵還元触媒内に流入する排気中の酸素 濃度が低くなると、すなわちNOx 吸蔵還元触媒に流入 する排気の空燃比がリッチとなると吸蔵されているイオ ウ分が例えばSO2の形で放出される。そこで、気筒を 一対の気筒群に分割し、一方の気筒でリーン混合気を燃 焼せしめて高濃度の酸素を含む排気を形成し、他方の気 筒でリッチ混合気を燃焼せしめて高濃度の未燃HC, C 〇を含む排気を形成し、これら排気をNOx 吸蔵還元触 媒に導いて排気中の未燃HC, COをNOx 吸蔵還元触 媒において燃焼せしめることによりNOx吸蔵還元触媒 の温度を高め、かつこのときNOx吸蔵還元触媒に流入 する排気全体の空燃比がリッチとなるようにし、それに よりNOx 吸蔵還元触媒を被毒再生するようにした触媒 被毒再生装置が公知である(特開平8-61052号公 報参照)。

【0005】ところで、一般に、機関が始動されてからしばらくの間は排気浄化触媒が活性化しておらず、したがってこの間は排気浄化触媒の良好な排気浄化作用は期待できない。そこで従来より、排気浄化触媒上流の機関排気通路内に追加の始動時触媒、例えば三元触媒を配置した内燃機関が知られている。この始動時触媒は機関に隣接して配置されると共に熱容量が小さくされているので機関が始動された後排気浄化触媒に比べて速やかに活性化し、したがって機関が始動されてから排気浄化触媒が活性化するまでの間に大気中に放出される未燃HC、COなどの量を低減することができる。

[0006]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】しかしながら、上述の 触媒被毒再生装置にこの始動時触媒を適用するとNOX 吸蔵還元触媒を十分に被毒再生することができない。す なわち、各気筒群の排気は始動時触媒を流通した後にN OX 吸蔵還元触媒に流入し、言い換えると高濃度の未燃 HC, COを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気は ほぼ同時に始動時触媒に流入する。その結果、排気中の 未燃HC, COの大部分が始動時触媒において燃焼しす なわち消費され、したがってNOx 吸蔵還元触媒において燃焼する未燃HC, COの量が低減されることになる。このため、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒を十分に加熱することができず、斯くしてNOx 吸蔵還元触媒からイオウ分を十分に放出させることができないという問題点がある。

[0007]

【課題を解決するための手段】上記課題を解決するために1番目の発明によれば、気筒が複数の気筒群に分割されており、各気筒群が分岐排気通路を介して共通の合流排気通路に接続されると共に合流排気通路内に排気浄化触媒が配置されており、これら気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにすることが可能な多気筒内燃機関において、各排気分岐通路内に始動時触媒を配置している。すなわち1番目の発明では、高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気が同時に始動時触媒に流入するのが阻止され、したがって高濃度のHCおよび酸素が始動時触媒で消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給可能となる。

【0008】また、2番目の発明によれば1番目の発明において、前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記複数の気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにしている。すなわち2番目の発明では、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されると高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気が形成され、これら高濃度のHCおよび高濃度の酸素が始動時触媒において消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給され、それによって排気浄化触媒が被毒再生される。

【0009】また、上記課題を解決するために3番目の発明によれば、気筒が複数の気筒群に分割されており、各気筒群に対し共通の合流排気通路内に排気浄化触媒が配置されており、これら気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにすることが可能な多気筒内燃機関において、合流排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置し、始動時触媒を迂回して各気筒群と前記排気浄化触媒とを接続可能なバイパス通路を設けている。すなわち3番目の発明でも、高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気が同時に始動時触媒に流入するのが阻止され、したがって高濃度のHCおよび酸素が排気浄化触媒に供給可能となる。

【0010】また、4番目の発明によれば3番目の発明

において、前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記複数の気筒群のうち一部の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリーンにすると共に残りの気筒群のうち少なくとも1つの気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、前記パイパス通路により各気筒群から排出される排気を一時的に前記始動時触媒を迂回して排気浄化触媒に導き、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにしている。すなわち4番目の発明でも、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されると高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素が始動時触媒において消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給され、それによって排気浄化触媒が被毒再生される。

【0011】また、上記課題を解決するために5番目の発明によれば、機関から排出される排気の空燃比がリーンである内燃機関の排気通路内に排気浄化触媒を配置し、排気浄化触媒上流の排気通路に炭化水素供給口を接続し、炭化水素供給口から排気浄化触媒に炭化水素を供給するようにした内燃機関において、炭化水素供給口上流の排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置している。すなわち5番目の発明でも、高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気が同時に始動時触媒に流入するのが阻止され、したがって高濃度のHCおよび酸素が排気浄化触媒に供給可能となる。

【0012】また、6番目の発明によれば5番目の発明において、前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されたときに前記炭化水素供給口から排気浄化触媒に炭化水素を一時的に供給し、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにしている。すなわち6番目の発明でも、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されると高濃度のHCおよび高濃度の酸素が始動時触媒において消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給され、それによって排気浄化触媒が被毒再生される。

【0013】また、上記課題を解決するために7番目の発明によれば、機関から排出される排気の空燃比がリッチである内燃機関の排気通路内に排気浄化触媒を配置し、排気浄化触媒上流の排気通路に2次空気供給口を接続し、2次空気供給口から排気浄化触媒に2次空気を供給するようにした内燃機関において、2次空気供給口上流の排気通路内に始動時触媒を配置している。すなわち7番目の発明でも、高濃度のHCを含む排気および高濃度の酸素を含む排気が同時に始動時触媒に流入するのが阻止され、したがって高濃度のHCおよび酸素が排気浄化触媒に供給可能となる。

【0014】また、8番目の発明によれば7番目の発明において、前記排気浄化触媒が被毒しているか否かを判断する被毒判断手段を具備し、排気浄化触媒が被毒して

いると判断されたときに前記2次空気供給口から排気浄化触媒に2次空気を一時的に供給し、それにより排気浄化触媒を被毒再生するようにしている。すなわち8番目の発明でも、排気浄化触媒が被毒していると判断されると高濃度のHCおよび高濃度の酸素が始動時触媒において消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給され、それによって排気浄化触媒が被毒再生される。

【0015】また、9番目の発明によれば2、4、6、 8番目の発明のうちのいずれか一つにおいて、前記被毒 判断手段は前記排気浄化触媒がイオウ分により被毒した か否かを判断している。すなわち9番目の発明では、排 気浄化触媒がイオウ分により被毒していると判断された ときに排気浄化触媒が被毒再生される。また、10番目 の発明によれば9番目の発明において、前記排気浄化触 媒が流入する排気の空燃比がリーンのときに流入する排 気中のNOx を吸蔵し、流入する排気の空燃比がリッチ となると吸蔵しているNOx を放出して還元するNOx 吸蔵還元触媒を具備し、NOx吸蔵還元触媒が被毒して いると判断されたときにNOx吸蔵還元触媒の温度が予 め定められた設定温度よりも高くなりかつNOx吸蔵還 元触媒に流入する排気全体の空燃比がリッチとなるよう に各気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を一時的に制御 している。すなわち10番目の発明では、NOx吸蔵還 元触媒が被毒していると判断されるとNOx 吸蔵還元触 媒の温度が設定温度よりも高くされかつNOX吸蔵還元 触媒に流入する排気全体の空燃比がリッチにされるので NOx 吸蔵還元触媒内のイオウ分がNOx 吸蔵還元触媒 から放出され、斯くして排気浄化触媒が被毒再生され る。

【0016】また、11番目の発明によれば1または3番目の発明において、各気筒の燃焼室内に燃料噴射弁を配置している。また、12番目の発明によれば11番目の発明において、前記燃料噴射弁が機関燃焼行程後期または排気行程に2次的に燃料噴射を行うことにより気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比がリッチとなるようにしている。機関燃焼行程後期または排気行程に2次的に燃料噴射された燃料(炭化水素)は完全燃焼することなく排気浄化触媒に到り、また部分酸化された状態で排気浄化触媒に到るので排気浄化触媒において容易に完全燃焼しうる。そこで12番目の発明では、機関燃焼行程後期または排気行程に2次的に燃料噴射を行うようにしている。

[0017]

【発明の実施の形態】図1を参照すると、機関本体1は例えば4つの気筒#1,#2,#3,#4を具備する。各気筒はそれぞれ対応する枝管2を介して共通のサージタンク3に接続され、サージタンク3は吸気ダクト4を介してエアクリーナ5に接続される。吸気ダクト4内にはスロットル弁6が配置される。また、各気筒の燃焼室内には燃焼室内に燃料を直接噴射する燃料噴射弁7が配

置される。各燃料噴射弁7は共通の燃料蓄圧室18を介して燃料ポンプ19に接続されており、したがって燃料ポンプ19から吐出された燃料は燃料蓄圧室18から各燃料噴射弁7に分配される。このようにすると各気筒の1燃焼サイクルにおいて燃料噴射弁7から複数回燃料噴射を行うことができる。なお、各燃料噴射弁7は電子制御ユニット20からの出力信号に基づいて制御される。

【0018】図1に示す内燃機関において各気筒は1番気筒#1と4番気筒#4とからなる第1の気筒群1aと、2番気筒#2と3番気筒#3とからなる第2の気筒群1bとに分割されている。第1の気筒群1aは第1の排気マニホルド8aを介して第1の始動時触媒9aを収容したケーシング10aに接続され、第2の気筒群1bは第2の排気マニホルド8bを介して第2の始動時触媒9bを収容したケーシング10bに接続される。これらケーシング10a、10bは共通の合流排気管11を介して排気浄化触媒12を収容したケーシング13に接続される。なお、図1の内燃機関の燃焼順序は#1-#3-#4-#2であり、したがって各気筒群において気筒の排気行程が互いに重なり合わないようになっている。

【0019】電子制御ユニット20はディジタルコンピ ュータからなり、双方向性バス21によって相互に接続 されたROM (リードオンリメモリ) 22、RAM (ラ ンダムアクセスメモリ)23、常時電力が供給されてい るバックアップRAM23a、CPU (マイクロプロセ ッサ)24、入力ポート25および出力ポート26を具 備する。サージタンク3にはサージタンク3内の圧力に 比例した出力電圧を発生する圧力センサ27が取り付け られ、機関本体1には機関冷却水温に比例した出力電圧 を発生する水温センサ28が取り付けられ、合流排気管 11の合流部にはこの合流部を流通する排気の空燃比に 応じた出力電圧を発生する空燃比センサ29が取り付け られる。これら圧力センサ27、水温センサ28および 空燃比センサ29の出力電圧はそれぞれ対応するAD変 換器30を介して入力ポート25に入力される。また、 入力ポート25にはクランクシャフトが例えば30度回 転する毎に出力パルスを発生するクランク角センサ31 が接続される。CPU24では圧力センサ27の出力電 圧に基づいて吸入空気量が算出され、クランク角センサ 31の出力パルスに基づいて機関回転数が算出される。 一方、出力ポート26は対応する駆動回路32を介して 各燃料噴射弁7にそれぞれ接続される。

【0020】始動時触媒9a,9bは主として、機関が始動された後排気浄化触媒12が活性化するまでの間にできるだけ排気、特にHCを浄化するためのものである。機関が始動された後始動時触媒9a,9bが速やかに活性化するためにこれら始動時触媒9a,9bは機関燃焼室に隣接配置され、かつ熱容量が排気浄化触媒12よりも小さくされている。図1の内燃機関において始動時触媒9a,9bは三元触媒から形成される。この三元

触媒は例えばアルミナを担体とし、この担体上に例えば 白金Pt、パラジウムPd, イリジウムIr, ロジウム Rhのような貴金属が担持されている。この三元触媒は 流入する排気中のHC, COを酸化する酸化触媒として 機能しうる。

【0021】一方、図1の内燃機関において排気浄化触 媒12はNOx 吸蔵還元触媒から形成される。このNO x 吸蔵還元触媒は例えばアルミナを担体とし、この担体 上に例えばカリウムK,ナトリウムNa,リチウムL i, セシウムCsのようなアルカリ金属、バリウムB a,カルシウムCaのようなアルカリ土類、ランタンL a, イットリウムYのような希土類から選ばれた少なく とも一つと、白金Pt、パラジウムPd, イリジウムI r,ロジウムRhのような貴金属とが担持されている。 排気通路内の或る位置よりも上流の排気通路内、燃焼室 内、および吸気通路内に供給された全燃料量に対する全 空気量の比をその位置を流通する排気の空燃比と称する と、このNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12は流入する排気の空燃 比がリーンのときにNOx を吸蔵し、流入する排気中の 酸素濃度が低下すると吸蔵したNOxを放出するNOx の吸放出作用を行う。なお、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12上 流の排気通路内に燃料或いは空気が供給されない場合に は流入する排気の空燃比は機関本体1から排出される排 気の空燃比に一致し、したがってこの場合にはNOx 吸 蔵還元触媒12は機関本体1から排出される排気の空燃 比がリーンのときにはNOx を吸蔵し、機関本体1から 排出される排気中の酸素濃度が低下すると吸蔵したNO x を放出することになる。

【0022】上述のNOx吸蔵還元触媒を機関排気通路 内に配置すればこのNOX吸蔵還元触媒は実際にNOX の吸放出作用を行うがこの吸放出作用の詳細なメカニズ ムについては明らかでない部分もある。しかしながらこ の吸放出作用は図2に示すようなメカニズムで行われて いるものと考えられる。次にこのメカニズムについて担 体上に白金PtおよびバリウムBaを担持させた場合を 例にとって説明するが他の貴金属、アルカリ金属、アル カリ土類、希土類を用いても同様なメカニズムとなる。 -【0023】すなわち、流入する排気の空燃比がかなり リーンになると流入する排気中の酸素濃度が大巾に増大 し、図2(A)に示されるようにこれら酸素O2がO2 - またはO2-の形で白金P t の表面に付着する。一方、 流入する排気中のNOは白金P t の表面上でO2 - また はO2-と反応し、NO2となる(2NO+O2→2NO 2)。次いで生成されたNO2の一部は白金Pt上でさ らに酸化されつつ吸蔵材内に吸蔵されて酸化バリウムB aOと結合しながら、図2(A)に示されるように硝酸 イオンNO3‐の形で吸蔵材内に拡散する。このように してNOx が吸蔵材内に吸蔵される。

【0024】流入する排気中の酸素濃度が高い限り白金Ptの表面でNO2が生成され、吸蔵材のNOX吸蔵能

力が飽和しない限り NO_2 が吸蔵材内に吸蔵されて硝酸イオン NO_3 - が生成される。これに対して流入する排気中の酸素濃度が低下して NO_2 の生成量が低下すると反応が逆方向(NO_3 - $\rightarrow NO_2$)に進み、斯くして吸蔵材内の硝酸イオン NO_3 - $がNO_2$ の形で吸蔵材から放出される。すなわち、流入する排気中の酸素濃度が低下すると NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒から NO_X が放出されることになる。流入する排気の空燃比をリッチ側にすると流入する排気の空燃比をリッチ側にすれば NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒から NO_X が放出されることになる。

【0025】一方、このとき流入する排気の空燃比をリッチにするとNOx 吸蔵還元触媒に流入する排気中に高濃度のHCまたはCOが含まれることになり、これらHCおよびCOは白金P t 上の酸素 O_2 - または O_2 -と反応して酸化せしめられる。また、流入する排気の空燃比をリッチにすると流入する排気中の酸素濃度が極度に低下するために吸蔵材から NO_2 が放出され、この NO_2 は図2 (B) に示されるようにHCまたはCOと反応して還元せしめられる。このようにして白金P t の表面上に NO_2 が存在しなくなると吸蔵材から次から次へと NO_2 が放出される。したがって流入する排気の空燃比をリッチにすると短時間のうちにNOx 吸蔵還元触媒からNOx が放出されることになる。

【0026】このように流入する排気の空燃比がリーンになるとNOxがNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に吸蔵され、流入する排気の空燃比をリッチにするとNOxがNOx吸蔵還元触媒12から短時間のうちに放出される。したがって図1に示す内燃機関では、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を通常リーンにし、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12のNOx吸蔵量が一定量以上になったときにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにしてNOx吸蔵還元触媒12からNOxを放出させ、この放出されたNOxを流入する排気中のHCおよびCOによって還元するようにしている。

一定時間だけ副燃料噴射を行うことによりNOX 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、それによりNOX 吸蔵還元触媒12からNOX を放出させると共に還元するようにしている。なお、副燃料噴射による燃料は機関駆動力のためにほとんど寄与しない。

【0028】言い換えると、図1の内燃機関では通常、 全気筒の1燃焼サイクルにおいて燃料噴射が1回行われ る、すなわち主燃料噴射のみが行われる。このとき主燃 料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比はリ ーン例えば約16.0とされ、したがってNOx吸蔵還 元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンとされる。 これに対し、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12からNOx を放出 すべきときには全気筒の1燃焼サイクルにおいて燃料噴 射が2回行われる、すなわち主燃料噴射および副燃料噴 射が行われる。このとき主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供 給される混合気の空燃比はリーン例えば約16.0とさ れ、しかしながら副燃料噴射により燃焼室から排出され る排気の空燃比がリッチ例えば約12.0とされ、それ によりNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比 がリッチとされる。なお、副燃料噴射は例えば圧縮上死 点後90から150クランク角度程度に定めることがで きる。

【0029】ところが流入する排気中にはイオウ分が含 まれており、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12にはNOx ばかり でなくイオウ分例えばSOXも吸蔵される。このNOX 吸蔵還元触媒12へのイオウ分の吸蔵メカニズムはNO x の吸蔵メカニズムと同じであると考えられる。 すなわ ち、NOx の吸蔵メカニズムを説明したときと同様に担 体上に白金PtおよびバリウムBaを担持させた場合を 例にとって説明すると、前述したように流入する排気の 空燃比がリーンのときには酸素〇2 が〇2 - または〇2-の形で白金P t の表面に付着しており、流入する排気中 の SO_X 例えば SO_2 は白金Pt の表面で O_2 - または 〇2-と反応してSO3となる。次いで生成されたSO3 は白金Pt上でさらに酸化されつつ吸蔵材内に吸蔵され て酸化バリウムBaOと結合しながら、硫酸イオンSO 42- の形で吸蔵材内に拡散する。次いでこの硫酸イオン SO42- はバリウムイオンBa2+と結合して硫酸塩Ba SО4 を生成する。

【0030】しかしながらこの硫酸塩 $BaSO_4$ は分解しずらく、流入する排気の空燃比を単にリッチにしても硫酸塩 $BaSO_4$ は分解されずにそのまま残る。したがって内には時間が経過するにつれて硫酸塩 $BaSO_4$ が増大することになり、斯くして時間が経過するにつれて NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒 12 が吸蔵しうる NO_X 量が低下することになる。すなわち、 NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒 12 がイオウ分により被毒することになる。

【0031】ところがNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内で生成された硫酸塩BaSO4はNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の温

度が高いときに流入する排気の空燃比がリッチまたは理 論空燃比になると分解して硫酸イオンSO42- がSO3 の形で吸蔵材から放出され、すなわちNOX吸蔵還元触 媒12が被毒再生される。そこで図1の内燃機関では、 NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分により被毒したか否 かを判断し、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分により 被毒したと判断されたときにはNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12 を予め定められた設定温度すなわちNOx吸蔵還元触媒 12からイオウ分を放出させるために必要な温度よりも 高くし、かつNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内に流入する排気 の空燃比を一時的にリッチにし、それによってNOx 吸 蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分を放出させるようにしてい る、すなわちNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12を被毒再生するよ うにしている。なお、このとき放出されたSO3 は流入 する排気中のHC, COによってただちにSO2に環元 せしめられる。

【0032】ところで、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12におい てHCやCOの酸化反応が生ずるとNOx 吸蔵還元触媒 12の温度が高くなり、この場合NOx 吸蔵環元触媒1 2において酸化される例えばHC量が多くなるほどNO x 吸蔵還元触媒12の温度が高くなる。一方、燃焼室か ら排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにすると高濃度のH Cを含む排気が形成され、燃焼室から排出される排気の 空燃比をリーンにすると高濃度の酸素を含む排気が形成 されることになる。したがって、これら排気を同時にN Ox 吸蔵還元触媒12に導けば多量のHCの酸化反応が 生じるのでNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12を非常に高温にする ことができ、同時にNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する 排気の空燃比をリッチにすることができる。そこで、図 1の内燃機関ではNOx吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分 を放出させるべきときには第1の気筒群1aから排出さ れる排気の空燃比を一時的にリーンにすると共に第2の 気筒群 1 bから排出される排気の空燃比を一時的にリッ チにし、しかもこのときNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入 する排気全体の空燃比を一時的にリッチにするようにし ている。

【0033】この場合、第1の気筒群1aでは1燃焼サイクルにおいて燃料噴射が1回行われる、すなわち主燃料噴射のみが行われる。このとき主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比はリーン例えば約16.0とされ、したがって第1の気筒群1aから排出される排気の空燃比がリーンとされる。これに対し、第2の気筒群1bでは1燃焼サイクルにおいて燃料噴射が行われる。このとき主燃料噴射および副燃料噴射が行われる。このとき主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比はリーン例えば約16.0とされ、しかしながら副燃料噴射により第2の気筒群1bから排出される排気の空燃比がリッチ例えば約12.0とされる。この場合、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気全体の空燃比は約14.0とされる。

【0034】NO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12がイオウ分により被毒しているか否かを直接判断するのは困難である。ところが、NO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12に吸蔵されたイオウ分の量が一定量以上になるとNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12が被毒していると判断することができ、このNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12に吸蔵されたイオウ分の量はNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12に変成されたイオウ分の量はNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンのときの積算燃料噴射量 STAUに比例する。そこで、図1の内燃機関ではNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンのとき、すなわち通常運転時の積算燃料噴射量 STAUを求め、この積算燃料噴射量 STAUが予め定められた一定値 STAU1よりも多くなったときにNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒 12がイオウ分により被毒していると判断するようにしている。

【0035】ところが、例えば機関アイドリング運転が 長時間行われたときのようにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の 温度が低いときにNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に多量のHC を供給してもこの多量のHCが十分に酸化されることな くNOx吸蔵還元触媒12から排出される恐れがある。 或いは、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分を十分に 放出させるために必要な温度、例えば600℃までNO x 吸蔵還元触媒12の温度を高めるために極めて多量の HCまたは時間を必要とする。そこで、図1の内燃機関 ではNOX吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分により被毒して いると判断されたときにNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12の温度 が予め定められた設定温度、例えば400から500℃ よりも高いときにイオウ分放出条件が成立したと判断 し、イオウ分放出作用を行うようにしている。すなわ ち、第1の気筒群1aから排出される排気の空燃比をリ ーンにすると共に第2の気筒群1bから排出される排気 の空燃比をリッチにし、かつNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に 流入する排気全体の空燃比をリッチにするようにしてい る。なお、各気筒群において各気筒に供給される混合気 の空燃比または各気筒から排出される排気の空燃比は同 一とされる。

【0036】排気通路内に温度センサを配置すればNOx 吸蔵還元触媒 12 の温度が設定温度よりも高いか否かを判断することができるが、機関運転状態に基づいて判断することができる。すなわち、例えば機関負荷が一定時間以上、一定値よりも高いときにはNOx 吸蔵還元触媒 12 の温度が設定温度よりも高いと判断することができる。そこで、図1 の内燃機関では機関負荷が一定時間以上、一定値よりも高いときにイオウ分放出条件が成立したと判断するようにしている。

【0037】単位時間当たりNOx吸蔵還元触媒12から放出されるイオウ分の量はNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の温度がある程度高ければ単位時間当たりNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入するHC,COのような還元剤量に比例し、この単位時間当たりNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する還元剤量は単位時間当たりNOx吸蔵還元触媒12

に流入する空燃比がリッチの排気ガス量に比例する。そこで、図1の内燃機関ではNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する空燃比がリッチの排気の積算排気ガス量SEGを求め、この積算排気ガス量SEGが予め定められた設定値SEG1よりも大きくなるまでイオウ分放出作用を行うようにしている。すなわち、SEG>SEG1となったときにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の触媒被毒が再生されたと判断することができる。

【0038】ところがイオウ分放出作用が行われているときに例えば機関アイドリング運転が行われて NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒 12の温度が低下すると上述のイオウ分放出条件が不成立となり、この場合イオウ分放出作用は中断される。このようにイオウ分放出作用が中断されたときには積算排気ガス量SEGが設定値SEG1になるまでイオウ分放出作用が繰り返し行われる。なお、イオウ分放出作用が完了すると積算燃料噴射時間STAUがクリアされる。

【0039】このように積算排気ガス量SEGが設定値 SEG1になるとイオウ分放出作用が完了され、或いは イオウ分放出作用中にイオウ分放出条件が不成立となる とイオウ分放出作用が中断される。ところが、イオウ分 放出作用が完了または中断された後にNOx吸蔵還元触 媒12に流入する排気全体の空燃比を直ちにリーンに戻 すとこのときのNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12の温度は比較的 高いためにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の触媒成分、例えば 白金Ptがシンタリングを生じ易くなる。一方、NOX 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を理論空燃比 にすると白金Ptのシンタリングを阻止しつつNOx吸 蔵還元触媒12の温度をシンタリングが生じない温度ま で低下させることができる。そこで、図1の内燃機関で はイオウ分放出作用が完了または中断されたときにはN Ox 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を一時的 に理論空燃比にし、その後NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流 入する排気全体の空燃比をリーンに戻すようにしてい る。この場合、主燃料噴射により全気筒の燃焼室内に供 給される混合気の空燃比が一時的に理論空燃比とされ、 副燃料噴射は行われない。

【0040】この場合、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12をシンタリングが生じない温度まで冷却するために必要な時間は直前に行われたイオウ分放出作用時にNOX吸蔵還元触媒12を流通した空燃比がリッチの排気の排気ガス量に比例し、一方、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する空燃比が理論空燃比の排気の排気ガス量に比例する。そこで、図1の内燃機関ではNOX吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する空燃比が理論空燃比の排気の積算排気ガス量SFBを求め、直前に行われたイオウ分放出作用時にNOX吸蔵還元触媒12を流通した空燃比がリッチの排気の排気ガス量が大きくなると大きくなる設定値SFB1を求め、積算排気ガス量SFBが設定値SFB1よりも大き

くなるまで NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒 12 に流入する排気の空燃比を理論空燃比に維持するようにしている。なお、機関運転状態が一定のときにイオウ分放出作用が例えば約 20 秒行われたときには NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒 12 に流入する排気の空燃比が約 60 秒だけ理論空燃比に維持される。

【0041】次に、図1の内燃機関の燃料噴射時間の算出方法について説明する。上述したように図1の内燃機関では主燃料噴射と副燃料噴射とが行われうる。主燃料噴射における燃料噴射時間TAUMは例えば次式に基づいて算出される。

 $TAUM = TP \cdot FAF \cdot KI \cdot KM$

ここでTPは基本燃料噴射時間を、FAFはフィードバック補正係数を、KIは増量補正係数を、KMは主空燃比補正係数をそれぞれ示している。

【0042】基本燃料噴射時間TPは機関燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比を理論空燃比とするのに必要な燃料噴射時間を示している。この基本燃料噴射時間TPは予め実験により求められ、機関負荷Q/N(吸入空気量Q/機関回転数N)および機関回転数Nの関数として図3に示すようなマップの形で予めROM22内に記憶されている。

【0043】フィードバック補正係数FAFは燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比を理論空燃比に維持するための補正係数である。このフィードバック補正係数FAFは燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比を理論空燃比にすべきときに空燃比センサ29からの出力信号に基づいて定められ、それ以外は1.0に固定される。増量補正係数KIは始動時増量補正係数、暖気増量補正係数、加速増量補正係数などを一まとめにして表したものであり、補正する必要がない場合にはKI=1.0とされる。

【0044】主空燃比補正係数KMは主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比を制御するための係数であってKM=1.0であれば主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比は理論空燃比となる。これに対してKM<1.0になれば主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比は理論空燃比よりも大きくなり、すなわちリーンとなり、KM>1.0になれば主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比は理論空燃比よりも小さくなる、すなわちリッチとなる。

【0045】一方、副燃料噴射における燃料噴射時間T AUSは例えば次式に基づいて算出される。

 $TAUS = TP \cdot FAF \cdot KI \cdot KS$

ここでKSは副空燃比補正係数を表している。この副空燃比補正係数KSは副燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比を制御することにより燃焼室から排出される排気の空燃比、すなわちNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を制御するための係数であ

る。すなわち、燃料噴射弁7から燃焼室内に供給される 全燃料量は (KM+KS) に比例するので (KM+K S)を排気空燃比補正係数KEと称すると、KE=1. 0 であれば燃焼室から排出される排気の空燃比は理論空 燃比となる。これに対してKE<1.0になれば燃焼室 から排出される排気の空燃比は理論空燃比よりも大きく なり、すなわちリーンとなり、KE>1. 0 になれば燃 焼室から排出される排気の空燃比は理論空燃比よりも小 さくなる、すなわちリッチとなる。図1の内燃機関では 排気空燃比補正係数KEおよび主空燃比補正係数KMと がまず算出され、これら補正係数の差(KE-KM)と して副空燃比補正係数KSが算出される。この場合、副 空燃比補正係数KSが零となると副燃料噴射が行われな い。なお、主空燃比補正係数KMおよび排気空燃比補正 係数KEは求めようとする燃料噴射時間が第1の気筒群 1 a のためのものであるときにはそれぞれKAM、KA Eとされ、第2の気筒群1bのためのものであるときに はそれぞれKBM、KBEとされる。

【0046】ところで、上述したように始動時触媒はNOx吸蔵還元触媒12が活性化するまでの間にできるだけ排気を浄化するためのものであり、したがって始動時触媒を合流排気管11の合流部内に配置したとしてもこの目的を達成することができる。しかしながら、始動時触媒を合流排気管11の合流部内に配置した場合に第1の気筒群1aの排気の空燃比をリーンにし、第2の気筒分1bの排気の空燃比をリッチにするとこれら排気中のHCおよび酸素が混合されつつ始動時触媒に流入し、この始動時触媒において排気中のHCの大部分が酸化されることになる。すなわち、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に到るHC量および酸素量が少なくなり、斯くしてNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の温度を十分に高めることができない。

【0047】これに対して本発明による実施態様では第1の気筒群1aの排気は第2の気筒群1bの排気と混合されることなく始動時触媒9aを流通し、第2の気筒群1bの排気は第1の気筒群1aの排気と混合されることなく始動時触媒9bを流通する。このため、第1の気筒群1aの排気の空燃比をリーンにし、第2の気筒分1bの排気の空燃比をリッチにしたときに始動時触媒9aにおいて消費される酸素量が低減され、始動時触媒9bにおいて消費されるHC量が低減され、始動時触媒9bにおいて消費されるHC量が低減される。したがって、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に多量のHCおよび酸素を確実に供給することができ、斯くしてNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の温度を確実に高めることができる。

【0048】図4から図6は予め定められた設定時間ごとに実行される割り込みルーチンを示している。図4から図6を参照すると、まずステップ40ではNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を理論空燃比とすべきときにセットされ、それ以外はリセットされるFBフラグがセットされているか否かが判別される。このFBフラグは通常リセットされているので次いでステップ

41に進み、イオウ分放出作用を行うべきときにセット され、それ以外はリセットされるイオウ分放出フラグが セットされているか否かが判別される。このイオウ分放 出フラグは通常リセットされているので次いでステップ 42に進み、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の 空燃比がリーンとされているときの積算燃料噴射時間S TAUが予め定められた設定時間STAU1よりも大き いか否かが判別される。STAU≦STAU1のときに は次いでステップ43に進み、NOx 放出作用を行うべ きときにセットされ、それ以外はリセットされるNOx 放出フラグがセットされているか否かが判別される。こ のNOx 放出フラグは通常リセットされているので次い でステップ44および45に進み、NOX吸蔵還元触媒 12の吸蔵NOx 量SNが求められる。このときNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比はリーンとさ れ、したがってNOx吸蔵還元触媒12ではNOx吸蔵 作用が行われる。NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に単位時間当 たり吸蔵されるNOx 量はNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に単 位時間当たり流入するNOX量FNにほぼ等しく、この 流入NOx量FNは機関運転状態に依存する。

【0049】各曲線が同一流入NOX量FNを示している図7(A)に示されるように、流入NOX量FNは機関負荷Q/N(吸入空気量Q/機関回転数N)が高くなるほど多くなり、機関回転数Nが高くなるほど多くなる。そこで、図1の内燃機関では流入NOX量Fを機関負荷Q/Nおよび機関回転数Nの関数として予め実験により求めておき、機関負荷Q/Nおよび機関回転数Nに基づいて流入NOX量FNを算出するようにしている。この流入NOX量FNは図7(B)に示されるマップの形で予めROM22内に記憶されている。続くステップ45では次式に基づいて吸蔵NOX量Sが算出される。

【0050】SN=SN+FN・DLT ここでDLTは前回のルーチンから今回のルーチンまでの時間であり、電子制御ユニット20に設けられたタイマにより求められる。したがってFN・DLTは前回のルーチンから今回のルーチンまでにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内に吸蔵されたNOx量を示している。続くステップ46では吸蔵NOx量SNが予め定められた設定量SN1よりも大きいか否かが判別される。この設定量SN1は例えばNOx吸蔵還元触媒12が吸蔵しうる最大NOx量の30パーセント程度である。SN≦SN1であれば処理サイクルを完了し、SN>SN1であればステップ47に進んでNOx放出フラグがセットされる。

【0051】NOx 放出フラグがセットされたときにはステップ43からステップ48に進む。このときNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12内に流入する排気の空燃比はリッチとされ、したがってNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12ではNOx 放出作用が行われる。ステップ48ではNOx 放出フラグがセットされてから、すなわちNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリッチにされてから一定時間

【0052】積算燃料噴射時間STAUが設定時間STAU1よりも大きくなったときにはステップ42からステップ51に進み、イオウ分放出条件が成立したか否かが判別される。図1の内燃機関では上述したように機関負荷Q/Nが一定時間以上、一定値よりも高いときにイオウ分放出条件が成立したと判断される。イオウ分放出条件が成立したときには次いでステップ52に進んでイオウ分放出フラグがセットされる。

【0053】イオウ分放出フラグがセットされたときにはステップ41からステップ53に進む。このときNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比はリッチとされ、したがってNOx吸蔵還元触媒12ではイオウ分放出作用と共にNOx放出作用も行われる。そこで、ステップ53では吸蔵NOx量SNをクリアするようにしている(SN=0)。続くステップ54ではイオウ分放出作用が開始されてからイオウ分放出作用が完了するまでの間にNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内を流通した積算排気ガス量SEGが次式に基づいて算出される。

【0054】SEG=SEG+Ga・DLT ここでGaは吸入空気質量流量を示しており、したがっ てGa・DLTは前回のルーチンから今回のルーチンま でにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入した排気ガス量を示 している。続くステップ55ではイオウ分放出作用が開 始または再開されてからイオウ分放出作用が完了または 中断されるまでの間にNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内を流通

した排気ガス量PSEGが次式に基づいて算出される。

[0055] PSEG=PSEG+Ga·DLT 続くステップ56では積算排気ガス量SEGが予め定め られた設定値SEG1よりも大きいか否かが判別され る。SEG≦SEG1のとき、すなわちイオウ分放出作 用が十分に行われていないときには次いでステップ57 に進み、イオウ分放出条件が成立しているか否かが判別 - される。イオウ分放出条件が成立しているときには処理 サイクルを完了し、したがってイオウ分放出作用が継続 される。これに対し、イオウ分放出条件が不成立のとき には次いでステップ60にジャンプする。これに対し、 ステップ56においてSEG>SEG1のとき、すなわ ちイオウ分放出作用が十分に行われたときには次いでス テップ58に進み、イオウ分放出作用が完了すべきとき にセットされ、それ以外はリセットされる完了フラグが セットされる。続くステップ59では積算排気ガス量S EGがクリアされる(SEG=0)。次いでステップ6 0に進む。

【0056】ステップ60ではイオウ分放出フラグがリセットされる。イオウ分放出フラグがリセットされると後述するようにイオウ分放出作用が停止され、したがってステップ59からステップ60に進んだ場合はイオウ分放出作用が完了せしめられ、ステップ57からステップ60に進んだ場合はイオウ分放出作用が中断せしめられる。続くステップ61ではFBフラグがセットされる。FBフラグがセットされるとNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされる。続くステップ62では排気ガス量PSEGに一定値kを乗算した乗算結果k・PSEGが設定値SFB1とされる。続くステップ63では排気ガス量PSEGがクリアされ(PSEG=0)、次いで処理サイクルを完了する。

【0057】FBフラグがセットされたときにときにはステップ40からステップ64に進み、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされているときにNOx吸蔵還元触媒12内を流通した積算排気ガス量SFBが次式に基づいて算出される。

 $SFB = SFB + Ga \cdot DLT$

続くステップ65では積算排気ガス量SFBが設定値S FB1よりも大きいか否かが判別される。SFB≦SF B1のときにはNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12が十分に冷却さ れていないと判断して処理サイクルを完了し、すなわち NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比を理論 空燃比に維持する。これに対し、SFB>SFB1のと きには次いでステップ66に進み、FBフラグがリセッ トされる。したがってNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入す る排気の空燃比がリーンに戻される。続くステップ67 では積算排気ガス量SFBがクリアされる(SFB= 0)。続くステップ68では完了フラグがセットされて いるか否かが判別される。完了フラグがセットされてい るとき、すなわちイオウ分放出作用が完了したことによ りステップ68に進んだときには次いでステップ69に 進んで積算燃料噴射時間STAUをクリアし(STAU =0)、次いでステップ70に進んで完了フラグをリセ ットした後に処理サイクルを完了する。これに対し、完 了フラグがセットされていないとき、すなわちイオウ分 放出作用が中断されたことによりステップ68い進んだ ときには積算燃料噴射時間STAUをクリアすることな く処理サイクルを完了する。したがって、後続の処理サ イクルではステップ42からステップ51に進むのでイ オウ分放出条件が再び成立すればイオウ分放出作用が再 開されることになる。

【0058】図8から図10までは燃料噴射時間を算出するためのルーチンを示している。このルーチンは予め定められた設定クランク角ごとの割り込みによって実行される。図8から図10までを参照すると、まずステップ80では基本燃料噴射時間TPが図3のマップから算出される。続くステップ81では増量補正係数KIが算出される。続くステップ82では機関冷却水温THWが

設定温度THW1よりも高いか否かが判別される。TH W>THW1のとき、すなわち機関暖気運転が完了して いるときには次いでステップ83に進み、上述したFB フラグがセットされているか否かが判別される。FBフ ラグがリセットされているときには次いでステップ84 に進み、フィードバック補正係数FAFが1.0に固定 される。続くステップ85ではイオウ分放出フラグがセ ットされているか否かが判別される。イオウ分放出フラ グがリセットされているときには次いでステップ86に 進み、NOx 放出フラグがセットされているか否かが判 別される。NOx 放出フラグがリセットされているとき には次いでステップ87に進み、第1の気筒群1aの排 気空燃比補正係数KAEが0.9とされ、続くステップ 88では第1の気筒群1aの主空燃比補正係数KAMが 0. 9とされ、続くステップ89では第2の気筒群1b の排気空燃比補正係数KBEが0.9とされ、続くステ ップ90では第2の気筒群1bの主空燃比補正係数KB Mが0.9とされる。すなわち、第1の気筒群1aから 排出される排気の空燃比がリーンとされ、第1の気筒群 1 a において主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混 合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが 零であるので副燃料噴射は行われない。また、第2の気 筒群1 bから排出される排気の空燃比もリーンとされ、 第2の気筒群1 bにおいて主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に 供給される混合気の空燃比もリーンとされ、副空燃比補 正係数KSが零であるので副燃料噴射は行われない。次 いでステップ91に進んで上述の積算燃料噴射時間を算 出すべきときにセットされ、それ以外はリセットされる 算出フラグをセットした後にステップ106に進む。

【0059】これに対し、ステップ86においてNOX 放出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ 92に進み、第1の気筒群1aの排気空燃比補正係数K AEが1. 2とされ、続くステップ93では第1の気筒 群1aの主空燃比補正係数KAMが0.9とされ、続く ステップ94では第2の気筒群1bの排気空燃比補正係 数KBEが1.2とされ、続くステップ95では第2の 気筒群1 bの主空燃比補正係数KBMが0.9とされ る。すなわち、第1の気筒群1aから排出される排気の 空燃比がリッチとされ、第1の気筒群1aにおいて主燃 料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリ ーンとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが0. 3であるので 副燃料噴射が行われる。また、第2の気筒群1 bから排 出される排気の空燃比もリッチとされ、第2の気筒群1 bにおいて主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合 気の空燃比もリッチとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが 0.3であるので副燃料噴射が行われる。次いでステッ プ106に進む。

【0060】一方、ステップ85においてイオウ分フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ96に進み、第1の気筒群1aの排気空燃比補正係数KAEが

0.9とされ、続くステップ97では第1の気筒群1aの主空燃比補正係数KAMが0.9とされ、続くステップ98では第2の気筒群1bの排気空燃比補正係数KBEが1.2とされ、続くステップ99では第2の気筒群1bの主空燃比補正係数KBMが0.9とされる。すなわち、第1の気筒群1aにおいて主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが零であるので副燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが零であるので副燃料噴射において主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比はリッチとされ、第2の気筒群1bにおいて主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比はリッチとされ、副空燃比補正係数KSが0.3であるので副燃料噴射が行われる。次いでステップ106に進む。

【0061】一方、ステップ83においてFBフラグが セットされているときには次いでステップ100に進 み、フィードバック補正係数FAFが算出される。続く ステップ101では第1の気筒群1aの排気空燃比補正 係数KAEが1. 0とされ、続くステップ102では第 1の気筒群1aの主空燃比補正係数KAMが1.0とさ れ、続くステップ103では第2の気筒群1bの排気空 燃比補正係数KBEが1.0とされ、続くステップ10 4では第2の気筒群1bの主空燃比補正係数KBMが 1. 0とされる。すなわち、第1の気筒群1aから排出 される排気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされ、第1の気筒群 1 a において主燃料噴射により燃焼室内に供給される混 合気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされ、副空燃比補正係数K Sが零であるので副燃料噴射は行われない。また、第2 の気筒群 1 bから排出される排気の空燃比も理論空燃比 とされ、第2の気筒群1bにおいて主燃料噴射により燃 焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比も理論空燃比とさ れ、副空燃比補正係数KSが零であるので副燃料噴射は 行われない。次いでステップ106に進む。

【0062】一方、ステップ82においてTHW≤TH W1のとき、すなわち機関暖気運転時には次いでステッ プ105に進み、フィードバック補正係数FAFを1. 0に固定した後にステップ101から104に進んだ後 にステップ106に進む。ステップ106では今回の処 理サイクルで求めようとする燃料噴射時間が第1の気筒 群1aのためのものであるか第2の気筒群1bのための ものであるかが判別される。今回の処理サイクルで求め ようとする燃料噴射時間が第1の気筒群1aのためのも のであるときには次いでステップ107に進み、主空燃 比補正係数KMがKAMとされる。 続くステップ108 では副空燃比補正係数KSがKAEとKAMとの差 (K AE-KAM) として算出される。次いでステップ11 1に進む。これに対し、今回の処理サイクルで求めよう とする燃料噴射時間が第2の気筒群1bのためのもので あるときには次いでステップ109に進み、主空燃比補

正係数KMがKBMとされる。続くステップ110では 副空燃比補正係数KSがKBEとKBMとの差(KBE-KBM)として算出される。次いでステップ111に 進む。

【0063】ステップ111では次式に基づいて主燃料 噴射時間TAUMが算出される。

 $TAUM = TP \cdot FAF \cdot KI \cdot KM$

続くステップ112では次式に基づいて副燃料噴射時間 TAUSが算出される。

TAUS=TP · FAF · KI · KS

主燃料噴射ではTAUMだけ、副燃料噴射ではTAUSだけそれぞれ燃料噴射が行われる。続くステップ113では算出フラグがセットされているか否かが判別される。算出フラグがリセットされているときには処理サイクルを完了し、これに対し算出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ114に進み、次式に基づいて積算燃料噴射時間STAUが算出される。

[0064] STAU=STAU+TAUM+TAUS 次いでステップ115に進み、算出フラグをリセットし た後に処理サイクルを完了する。図11に別の実施態様 を示す。この実施態様でも気筒は第1の気筒群1aと第 2の気筒群1 bとに分割されている。しかしながら、こ の実施態様ではこれら気筒群 1 a, 1 b は共通の排気マ ニホルド8に接続され、この排気マニホルド8は排気管 35を介して始動時触媒例えば三元触媒9を収容したケ ーシング10に接続される。すなわち、本実施態様では 単一の始動時触媒9が設けられる。ケーシング10は排 気管36を介して排気浄化触媒例えばNOx吸蔵還元触 媒12を収容したケーシング13に接続される。さら に、図11に示されるように排気管35と排気管36と を互いに接続するバイパス管37が設けられ、このバイ パス管37の流入端にはアクチュエータ38により制御 されるバイパス制御弁39が配置される。バイパス制御 弁39は通常、バイパス管37を遮断し、したがって機 関から排出された排気はすべて始動時触媒9内を流通す る。これに対してバイパス制御弁39がバイパス管37 を開放せしめると排気マニホルド8と始動時触媒9との 連通が遮断され、したがって機関から排出された排気は すべて始動時触媒9を迂回してバイパス管37内を流通 し、次いでNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に到る。なお、アク チュエータ38は電子制御ユニット20の駆動回路32 を介して出力ポート26に接続されており、電子制御ユ ニット20からの出力信号に基づいて制御される。

【0065】この実施態様でも、上述の実施態様と同様に、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分を放出させるべきときには第1の気筒群1aから排出される排気の空燃比がリーンとされ、第2の気筒群1bから排出される排気の空燃比がリッチとされ、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気全体の空燃比がリッチとされる。さらに、このときバイパス制御弁39によりバイパス管37

が開放され、排気マニホルド8と始動時触媒9との連通が遮断される。その結果、第1の気筒群1aから排出される高濃度の空気を含む排気と、第2の気筒群1bから排出される高濃度のHCを含む排気とが同時に三元触媒9内を流通するのが阻止される。したがって、始動時触媒9において消費される酸素量およびHC量が低減されるのでNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に多量のHCおよび酸素を確実に供給することができ、斯くしてNOx吸蔵還元触媒12の温度を確実に高めることができる。

【0066】図12はバイパス制御弁を制御するためのルーチンを示している。このルーチンは予め定められた設定時間ごとの割り込みによって実行される。なお、本実施態様においても図4から図6までを参照して説明した割り込みルーチンが実行され、図8から図10までを参照して説明した燃料噴射時間の算出ルーチンが実行されている。

【0067】図12を参照すると、まずステップ120では図4から図6までに示す割り込みルーチンでセットまたはリセットされるイオウ分放出フラグがセットされているか否かが判別される。イオウ分放出フラグがリセットされているときには次いでステップ121に進み、バイパス制御弁39を制御してバイパス管37を遮断すると共に排気マニホルド8と始動時触媒9との連通を確保する。これに対し、イオウ分放出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ122に進み、バイパス制御弁39を制御してバイパス管37を開放せしめると共に排気マニホルド8と始動時触媒9との連通を遮断する。なお、その他の構成および作用は上述の実施態様と同様であるので説明を省略する。

【0068】これまで述べてきた実施態様では各気筒群は複数の気筒から形成されている。しかしながら各気筒群を単一の気筒から形成してもよい。また、これまで述べてきた実施態様では気筒を一対の気筒群1a,1bに分割しているが、気筒を3つ以上の気筒群に分割してもよい。例えば図11に示す実施態様において気筒を3つの気筒群に分割した場合、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分を放出させるべきときに第1の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリーンにし、第2の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比をリッチにし、第3の気筒群から排出される排気の空燃比を埋論空燃比にし、しかもNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気全体の空燃比がリッチとなるようにすることができる。

【0069】図13にさらに別の実施態様を示す。図13を参照すると、各気筒は共通の排気マニホルド8を介して始動時触媒例えば三元触媒9を収容したケーシング10に接続され、ケーシング10は排気管130を介して排気浄化触媒例えばNOx吸蔵還元触媒12を収容したケーシング13に接続される。排気管130内にはNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に2次燃料を供給可能な2次燃料噴射弁131が取り付けられる。この2次燃料噴射弁1

31は図示しない追加の燃料ポンプを介して燃料噴射弁7と共通の燃料タンクに接続される。また、2次燃料噴射弁131は電子制御ユニット20の駆動回路32を介して出力ポート26に接続されており、電子制御ユニット20からの出力信号に基づいて制御される。

【0070】この実施態様では気筒は気筒群に分割され ておらず、各気筒に供給される混合気の空燃比または各 気筒から排出される排気の空燃比は同一とされる。ま た、各気筒において主燃料噴射のみが行われ、副燃料噴 射は行われない。この実施態様でも通常、NOx 吸蔵還 元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンとされ、N Ox 吸蔵還元触媒12の吸蔵NOx 量が一定量以上にな ったときにはNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の 空燃比が一時的にリッチとされる。また、NOX吸蔵還 元触媒12がイオウ分により被毒したと判断されかつイ オウ分放出条件が成立したときにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒 12が一時的に加熱されつつNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に 流入する排気の空燃比が一時的にリッチとされ、イオウ 分放出作用が完了または中断されたときにはNOx 吸蔵 還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が一時的に理論空 燃比とされる。

【0071】NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の 空燃比をリーンにすべきときには各気筒に供給される混 合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、このとき2次燃料噴射弁 131の2次燃料噴射は停止される。これに対し、NO x 吸蔵還元触媒 1 2 に流入する排気の空燃比をリッチに すべきときには各気筒に供給される混合気の空燃比がり ーンにされつつ2次燃料噴射弁131の2次燃料噴射が 行われる。この場合、機関から排出された空燃比がリー ンの排気には比較的多量の酸素が含まれており、したが って2次燃料噴射弁131が2次燃料噴射を行えばこの ときNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12には多量の酸素およびHC が供給されることになる。この多量の酸素およびHCは 次いでNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12において反応し、斯くし てNOx吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分放出作用のために 十分な温度まで速やかに加熱せしめられる。また、この ときNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が リッチとなるように2次燃料噴射量を制御すればNOx 吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分が放出される。

【0072】図13からわかるように、始動時触媒9は2次燃料噴射弁131の燃料噴口よりも排気上流側に位置しており、したがって始動時触媒9に多量の酸素およびHCが同時に流入するのが阻止されている。したがって、 NO_X 吸蔵還元触媒12に多量の酸素およびHCを供給することができ、斯くしてイオウ分放出作用を十分に行うことが可能となる。

【0073】図14から図16までは本実施態様における燃料噴射時間算出ルーチンを示している。このルーチンは図8から図10までに示す燃料噴射時間算出ルーチンにおいてステップ87から90までがステップ87a

および88aに置き換えられ、ステップ92から95までがステップ92aおよび93aに置き換えられ、ステップ96から99までがステップ96aおよび97aに置き換えられ、ステップ101から104までがステップ101aおよび102aに置き換えられ、ステップ106から108までがステップ108aに置き換えられ、ステップ112および114がステップ112aおよび114aにそれぞれ置き換えられたものである。また、本実施態様においても図4から図6を参照して説明した割り込みルーチンが実行されている。

【0074】変更点について説明すると、ステップ86 においてNOx フラグがリセットされているときには次 いでステップ87aに進み、排気空燃比補正係数KEが 0.9とされ、続くステップ88aでは主空燃比補正係 数KMが0.9とされる。すなわち、NOx吸蔵還元触 媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンとされ、主燃料 噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリ ーンとされ、2次燃料噴射空燃比補正係数KSSが零で あるので2次燃料噴射は行われない。次いでステップ9 1に進んで算出フラグをセットした後にステップ108 aに進む。これに対し、ステップ86においてNOxフ ラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ92a に進み、排気空燃比補正係数KEが1. 2とされ、続く ステップ93aでは主空燃比補正係数KMが0.9とさ れる。すなわち、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排 気の空燃比がリッチとされ、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室 内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、2次燃 料噴射空燃比補正係数KSSが 0. 3 であるので 2 次燃 料噴射が行われる。次いでステップ108aに進む。

【0075】一方、ステップ85においてイオウ分放出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ96 aに進み、排気空燃比補正係数KEが1.2とされ、続くステップ97aでは主空燃比補正係数KMが0.9とされる。すなわち、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリッチとされ、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、2次燃料噴射空燃比補正係数KSSが0.3であるので2次燃料噴射が行われる。次いでステップ108aに進む。

【0076】一方、ステップ100においてフィードバック補正係数FAFを算出した後、或いはステップ105においてフィードバック補正係数FAFを1.0に固定した後にはステップ101aに進み、排気空燃比補正係数KEが1.0とされ、続くステップ102aでは主空燃比補正係数KMが1.0とされる。すなわち、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされ、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされ、2次燃料噴射空燃比補正係数KSSが零であるので2次燃料噴射は行われない。次いでステップ108aに進む。

【0077】ステップ108aでは2次燃料噴射空燃比

補正係数KSSが排気空燃比補正係数KEと主空燃比補 正係数KMとの差(KE-KM)として算出される。続 くステップ111では主燃料噴射のための燃料噴射時間 TAUMが算出され、続くステップ112aでは2次燃 料噴射のための燃料噴射時間TAUSSが次式に基づい て算出される。

【0078】TAUSS=TP・FAF・KI・KM 2次燃料噴射弁131からはTAUSSだけ2次燃料噴 射が行われる。続くステップ113において算出フラグ がセットされているときには次いでステップ114aに 進んで積算燃料噴射時間STAUが次式に基づいて算出 される。

STAU=STAU+TAUM+TAUSS なお、その他の構成および作用は上述の実施態様と同様であるので説明を省略する。

【0079】図17にさらに別の実施態様を示す。この 実施態様は2次燃料噴射弁131の代わりに排気管13 0内に2次空気噴射弁132が設けられている点で図1 3に示す実施態様と構成を異にしている。なお、2次空 気噴射弁132は電子制御ユニット20の駆動回路32 を介して出力ポート26に接続されており、電子制御ユニット20からの出力信号に基づいて制御される。

【0080】この実施態様でも通常、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリーンとされ、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12の吸蔵NOx量が一定量以上になったときにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が一時的にリッチとされる。また、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分により被毒したと判断されかつイオウ分放出条件が成立したときにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が一時的にリッチとされ、イオウ分放出作用が完了または中断されたときにはNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が一時的に理論空燃比とされる。

【0081】NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の 空燃比をリーンにすべきときには各気筒に供給される混 合気の空燃比がリーンとされ、このとき2次空気噴射弁 132の2次空気噴射は停止される。これに対し、NO x 放出作用を行うべくNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入す る排気の空燃比をリッチにすべきときには各気筒に供給 される混合気の空燃比がリッチにされ、このとき2次空 気噴射弁132の2次空気噴射は停止される。また、イ オウ分放出作用を行うべくNOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流 入する排気の空燃比をリッチにすべきときには各気筒に 供給される混合気の空燃比がリッチにされ、このとき2 次空気噴射弁132の2次空気噴射が行われる。この場 合、機関から排出された空燃比がリッチの排気には比較 的多量の未燃HC, COが含まれており、したがって2 次空気噴射弁132が2次空気噴射を行えばこのときN Ox 吸蔵還元触媒12には多量の酸素およびHC、CO

が供給されることになる。この多量の酸素およびHC, COは次いでNOҳ 吸蔵還元触媒12において反応し、斯くしてNOҳ 吸蔵還元触媒12がイオウ分放出作用のために十分な温度まで速やかに加熱せしめられる。また、このときNOҳ 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリッチとなるように2次空気噴射量を制御すればNOҳ 吸蔵還元触媒12からイオウ分が放出される。例えば、各気筒に供給される混合気の空燃比は例えば約11.0とされ、2次空気によりNOҳ吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が約14.0とされる。

【0082】図17からわかるように、始動時触媒9は2次空気噴射弁132の空気噴口よりも排気上流側に位置しており、したがって始動時触媒9に多量の酸素およびHC,COが同時に流入するのが阻止されている。したがって、この実施態様においてもNO χ 吸蔵還元触媒12に多量の酸素およびHC,COを供給することができ、斯くしてイオウ分放出作用を十分に行うことが可能となる。

【0083】図18から図20までは本実施態様におけ る燃料噴射時間算出ルーチンを示している。このルーチ ンは図8から図10までに示す燃料噴射時間算出ルーチ ンにおいてステップ87から90までがステップ87b および88bに置き換えられ、ステップ92から95ま でがステップ92bおよび93bに置き換えられ、ステ ップ96から99までがステップ96bおよび97bに 置き換えられ、ステップ101から104までがステッ プ101bおよび102bに置き換えられ、ステップ1 06から111までおよびステップ112が削除され、 ステップ114がステップ114bに置き換えられたも のである。また、本実施態様においても図4から図6を 参照して説明した割り込みルーチンが実行されている。 【0084】変更点について説明すると、ステップ86 においてNOx フラグがリセットされているときには次 いでステップ87bに進み、主空燃比補正係数KMが 0.9とされ、続くステップ88bでは2次空気噴射弁 132の2次空気噴射が停止される(OFF)。すなわ ち、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の 空燃比がリーンとされ、NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入 する排気の空燃比がリーンとされる。次いでステップ9 1に進んで算出フラグをセットした後にステップ111 に進む。これに対し、ステップ86においてNOx フラ グがセットされているときには次いでステップ92bに 進み、主空燃比補正係数KMが1.2とされ、続くステ ップ88bでは2次空気噴射弁132の2次空気噴射が 停止される(OFF)。すなわち、主燃料噴射により各 燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリッチとされ、 NOx 吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比がリッ チとされる。次いでステップ111に進む。

【0085】一方、ステップ85においてイオウ分放出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ96

bに進み、主空燃比補正係数KMが1.3とされ、続くステップ88bでは2次空気噴射弁132の2次空気噴射が行われる(ON)。すなわち、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比がリッチとされ、NOx吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比もリッチとされる。次いでステップ111に進む。

【0086】一方、ステップ100においてフィードバック補正係数FAFを算出した後、或いはステップ105においてフィードバック補正係数FAFを1.0に固定した後にはステップ101bに進み、主空燃比補正係数KMが1.0とされ、続くステップ88bでは2次空気噴射弁132の2次空気噴射が停止される(OF

F)。すなわち、主燃料噴射により各燃焼室内に供給される混合気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされ、NOX吸蔵還元触媒12に流入する排気の空燃比が理論空燃比とされる。次いでステップ111に進む。

【0087】ステップ111では主燃料噴射のための燃料噴射時間TAUMが算出される。続くステップ113において算出フラグがセットされているときには次いでステップ114bに進んで積算燃料噴射時間STAUが次式に基づいて算出される。

STAU = STAU + TAUM

なお、その他の構成および作用は上述の実施態様と同様 であるので説明を省略する。

【0088】これまで述べてきた実施態様では排気浄化触媒12をNOx吸蔵還元触媒から形成している。しかしながら、排気浄化触媒12を三元触媒から形成してもよい。また、これまで述べてきた実施態様では排気浄化触媒12がイオウ分により被毒したか否かを判別し、排気浄化触媒12がイオウ分により被毒したと判別されたときに排気浄化触媒12のイオウ分による触媒被毒を再生するようにしている。しかしながら、排気浄化触媒12が例えば可溶有機成分(SOF)や鉛のような排気浄化性能低下物質により被毒したか否かを判別し、排気浄化触媒12がこの排気浄化性能低下物質により被毒したと判別されたときに排気浄化触媒12の排気浄化性能低下物質による触媒被毒を再生するようにすることもできる。

[0089]

【発明の効果】高濃度のHCおよび高濃度の酸素が同時に始動時触媒に流入するのが阻止され、したがって機関始動時の良好な排気浄化作用を確保しつつ高濃度のHCおよび酸素を始動時触媒で消費されることなく排気浄化触媒に供給することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】内燃機関の全体図である。

【図2】NOx 吸蔵還元触媒のNOx 吸放出作用を説明

するための図である。

【図3】基本燃料噴射時間を示す線図である。

【図4】割り込みルーチンを示すフローチャートである。

【図 5 】割り込みルーチンを示すフローチャートである。

【図6】割り込みルーチンを示すフローチャートである。

【図7】単位時間当たりNOx吸蔵還元触媒に流入するNOx量を示す線図である。

【図8】燃料噴射時間を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図9】燃料噴射時間を算出するためのフローチャート である。

【図10】燃料噴射時間を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図11】別の実施態様を示す内燃機関の全体図であ る。

【図12】バイパス制御弁を制御するためのフローチャートである。

【図13】さらに別の実施態様を示す内燃機関の全体図である。

【図14】図13に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図15】図13に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図16】図13に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図17】さらに別の実施態様を示す内燃機関の全体図である。

【図18】図17に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図19】図17に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【図20】図17に示す実施態様において燃料噴射時間 を算出するためのフローチャートである。

【符号の説明】

1 a…第1の気筒群

1 b…第2の気筒群

7…燃料噴射弁

8,8a,8b…排気マニホルド

9, 9a, 9b…始動時触媒

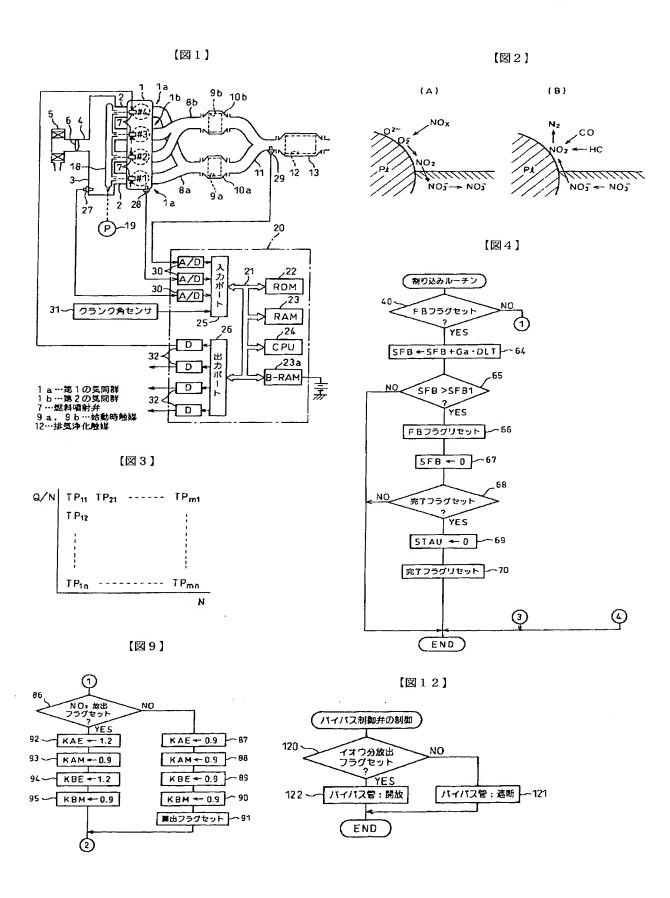
12…排気浄化触媒

37…バイパス管

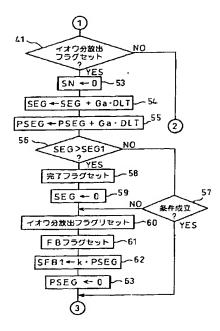
39…バイパス制御弁

131…2次燃料噴射弁

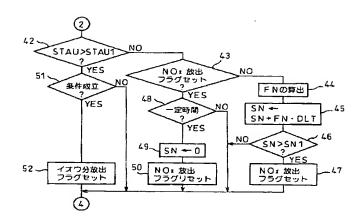
132…2次空気噴射弁





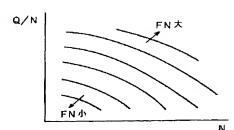


【図6】

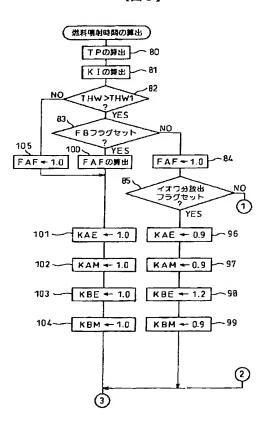


【図7】

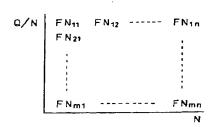
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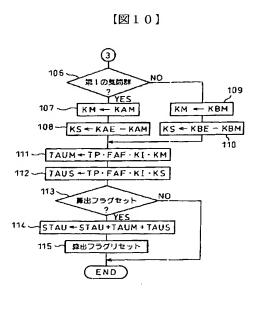


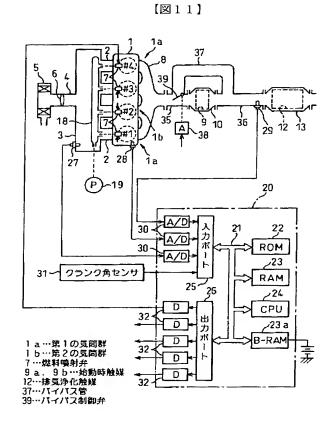
【図8】



(B)

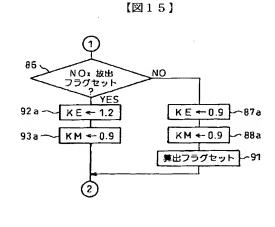




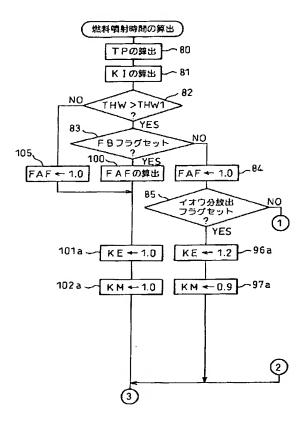


130 29 12 13 2**8** 30 ROM 23 31~ クランク角センサ RAM 25⁵ 24ر CPU B-RAM 32 茅 7…燃料噴射弁 9···始動時触媒 12···排気浄化触媒 131····2次燃料噴射弁

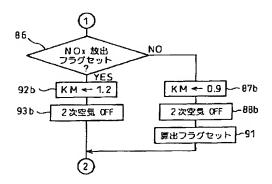
【図13】



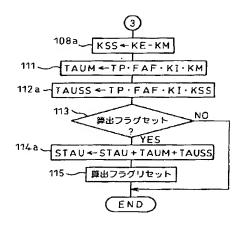
【図14】



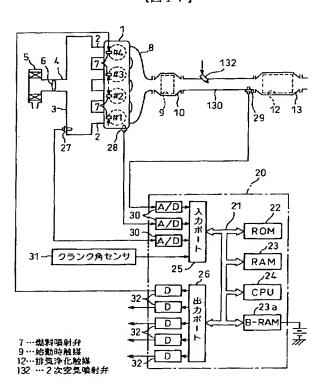
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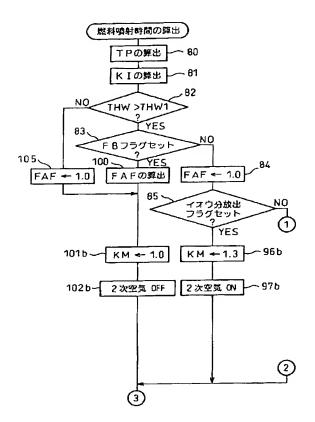
【図16】



【図17】







【図20】

③
111 TAUM -TP.FAF · KI · KM
113 第出フラグセット NO
1146 STAU + STAU + TAUM
STAU-STAU + TAUM
115 〜〜 算出フラグリセット
END

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(51) Int. Cl. 6		識別記号	FΙ		
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	3/30			3/30	С
F 0 2 D	41/02	3 0 1	F 0 2 D	41/02	301H
	41/34			41/34	G
	41/36			41/36	В

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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] While the cylinder is divided into two or more cylinder groups and each cylinder group is connected to a common unification flueway through a branching flueway, the exhaust air purification catalyst is arranged in this unification flueway. In the multi-cylinder internal combustion engine which can make rich the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among these cylinder groups The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which has arranged the catalyst in each exhaust air branching path at the time of starting.

[Claim 2] A poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning is provided. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making temporarily into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among two or more aforementioned cylinder groups, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning is temporarily made rich. The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 1 which was made to carry out poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst by that cause.

[Claim 3] The cylinder is divided into two or more cylinder groups, and the exhaust air purification catalyst is arranged in the common unification flueway to each cylinder group. In the multi-cylinder internal combustion engine which can make rich the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among these cylinder groups The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which has arranged the catalyst at the time of starting, bypassed the catalyst at the time of this starting, and prepared the bypass path which can connect each cylinder group and the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst in the unification flueway.

[Claim 4] A poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning is provided. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making temporarily into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among two or more aforementioned cylinder groups, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning is temporarily made rich. The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 3 which bypasses a catalyst temporarily at the time of the aforementioned starting, leads the exhaust air discharged by the aforementioned bypass path from each cylinder group to an exhaust air purification catalyst, and was made to carry out poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst by that cause.

[Claim 5] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which has arranged the catalyst in the flueway of the hydrocarbon feed-hopper upstream in the internal combustion engine with

which the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged by the engine arranges an exhaust air purification catalyst in the flueway of the internal combustion engine which is RIN, connects a hydrocarbon feed hopper to the flueway of this exhaust air purification catalyst upstream, and supplied the hydrocarbon to the exhaust air purification catalyst from this hydrocarbon feed hopper at the time of starting. [Claim 6] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 5 which possesses a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning, supplies a hydrocarbon to an exhaust air purification catalyst temporarily from the aforementioned hydrocarbon feed hopper when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning, and was made to carry out poisoning reproduction in an exhaust air purification catalyst by that cause.

[Claim 7] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine which has arranged the catalyst in the flueway of a secondary air supply message style in the internal combustion engine with which the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged by the engine arranges an exhaust air purification catalyst in the flueway of a rich internal combustion engine, connects secondary air supply mouths to the flueway of this exhaust air purification catalyst upstream, and supplied secondary air to the exhaust air purification catalyst from these secondary air supply mouths at the time of starting.

[Claim 8] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 7 which possesses a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning, supplies secondary air to an exhaust air purification catalyst temporarily from the secondary aforementioned air supply mouths when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning, and was made to carry out poisoning reproduction in an exhaust air purification catalyst by that cause.

[Claim 9] The aforementioned poisoning judgment means is the exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine given in any 1 term of the claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 which judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst carried out poisoning by part for sulfur. [Claim 10] NOX under exhaust air which flows when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air into which the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst flows is RIN Occlusion is carried out. NOX which is carrying out occlusion if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air becomes rich NOX emitted and returned An occlusion reduction catalyst is provided. This NOX It is this NOX when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst is carrying out poisoning. The temperature of an occlusion reduction catalyst becomes higher than the setting temperature defined beforehand, and it is this NOX. So that the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst may become rich The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 9 which controls temporarily the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from each cylinder group. [Claim 11] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 1 or 3 which has arranged the fuel injection valve to the combustion chamber of each cylinder. [Claim 12] The exhaust emission control device of the internal combustion engine according to claim 11 with which it was made for the aforementioned fuel injection valve to become rich [the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a cylinder group by / secondary / performing fuel injection-like like a second-half / of an engine combustion stroke /, or exhaust air line].

[Translation done.]

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention] [0001]

[The technical field to which invention belongs] this invention relates to the exhaust emission control device of an internal combustion engine.
[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] If the ratio of all air contents to the total fuel quantity supplied in the combustion chamber and the inhalation-of-air path in the upstream flueway rather than a certain position in a flueway is called the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which circulates the position In the internal combustion engine it was made to make a gaseous mixture burn the former -- RIN -- It is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is RIN. NOX which is carrying out occlusion if occlusion is carried out and the oxygen density under flowing exhaust air becomes low NOX to emit An occlusion reduction catalyst is arranged in an engine flueway. NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows in an occlusion reduction catalyst is temporarily made rich, and it is NOX. NOX by which occlusion is carried out from the occlusion reduction catalyst While making it emit Emitted NOX The internal combustion engine it was made to return by unburnt hydrocarbon (HC), a carbon monoxide (CO), etc. under exhaust air is known.

[0003] However, since a part for sulfur is contained in fuel and an engine's lubricating oil, a part for sulfur is contained during exhaust air, and a part for this sulfur is also SO42. - It is NOX in a form. NOX Occlusion is carried out to an occlusion reduction catalyst. However, a part for this sulfur is NOX. It is NOX even if it merely only makes rich the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air to an occlusion reduction catalyst. It is not emitted from an occlusion reduction catalyst, therefore is NOX. The amount for sulfur in an occlusion reduction catalyst will increase gradually. however, NOX if the amount for sulfur in an occlusion reduction catalyst increases -- NOX NOX in which an occlusion reduction catalyst can carry out occlusion an amount -- gradually -- falling -- just -- being alike -- NOX an occlusion reduction catalyst -- NOX It stops almost being able to carry out occlusion.

[0004] However, NOX It is NOX when the temperature of an occlusion reduction catalyst is high. It is NOX if the oxygen density under exhaust air which flows in an occlusion reduction catalyst becomes low. A part for the sulfur by which occlusion is carried out if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst becomes rich is SO2. It is emitted in a form. The exhaust air which a gaseous mixture is made to burn and contains high-concentration oxygen is formed. then, a cylinder -- the cylinder group of a couple -- dividing -- one cylinder -- RIN -- Exhaust air containing HC and CO is formed. rich in the cylinder of another side -- a gaseous mixture is burned -- making -- unburnt [high-concentration] -- these exhaust air -- NOX an occlusion reduction catalyst -- leading -- unburnt [under exhaust air] -- HC and CO -- NOX you make it burn in an occlusion reduction catalyst -- NOX The temperature of an occlusion reduction catalyst is raised. And it is NOX at this time. It is made for the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst to become rich, and, thereby, is NOX. The catalyst poisoning regenerative apparatus which was made to carry out poisoning reproduction of the occlusion reduction catalyst is well-known (refer to JP,8-

61052,A).

[0005] By the way, generally, after an engine starts, an exhaust air purification catalyst is not activated for a while, therefore the good exhaust air cleaning effect of an exhaust air purification catalyst is not expectable in the meantime. Then, from before, the internal combustion engine which has arranged the catalyst, for example, a three way component catalyst, in the engine flueway of the exhaust air purification catalyst upstream at the time of additional starting is known. unburnt [which is emitted into the atmosphere after it is promptly activated compared with the post-exhaust air purification catalyst which the engine put into operation, therefore an engine starts at the time of this starting before an exhaust air purification catalyst is activated, since heat capacity is made small while a catalyst adjoins an engine and being arranged] -- amounts, such as HC and CO, can be reduced [0006]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention] However, if a catalyst is applied to an above-mentioned catalyst poisoning regenerative apparatus at the time of this starting, poisoning reproduction of the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst cannot fully be carried out. after [namely,] exhaust air of each cylinder group circulates a catalyst at the time of starting -- NOX if it flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst and is put in another way as it -- unburnt [high-concentration] -- the exhaust air containing the exhaust air containing HC and CO and high-concentration oxygen flows into a catalyst almost simultaneous at the time of starting consequently, unburnt [under exhaust air] -- the great portion of HC and CO burn in a catalyst at the time of starting, namely, it consumes -- having -- therefore, NOX unburnt [which burns in an occlusion reduction catalyst] -- the amount of HC and CO will be reduced For this reason, NOX An occlusion reduction catalyst cannot fully be heated but it is NOX thus. There is a trouble of the ability not to make a part for sulfur fully emit from an occlusion reduction catalyst.

[Means for Solving the Problem] According to the 1st invention, the cylinder is divided into two or more cylinder groups in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem. While each cylinder group is connected to a common unification flueway through a branching flueway, the exhaust air purification catalyst is arranged in the unification flueway. While making into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among these cylinder groups, in the multi-cylinder internal combustion engine which can make rich the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups, the catalyst is arranged in each exhaust air branching path at the time of starting. That is, in the 1st invention, supply for an exhaust air purification catalyst is attained, without preventing that exhaust air containing the exhaust air containing high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen flows into a catalyst simultaneously at the time of starting, therefore consuming high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen with a catalyst at the time of starting.

[0008] Moreover, according to the 2nd invention, in the 1st invention, a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning is provided. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making temporarily into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among two or more aforementioned cylinder groups, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning is temporarily made rich. Thereby, it is made to carry out poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst. That is, in the 2nd invention, an exhaust air purification catalyst is supplied without forming exhaust air containing the exhaust air containing high-concentration HC, and high-concentration oxygen, and consuming HC and the high-concentration oxygen of these high concentration in a catalyst at the time of starting, if an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning, and poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out by it.

[0009] Moreover, according to the 3rd invention, the cylinder is divided into two or more cylinder groups in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem. The exhaust air purification catalyst is arranged in the common unification flueway to each cylinder group. In the multi-cylinder internal combustion engine which can make rich the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one

cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among these cylinder groups In the unification flueway, the catalyst has been arranged at the time of starting, the catalyst was bypassed at the time of starting, and the bypass path which can connect each cylinder group and the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is prepared. That is, it is prevented that the exhaust air in which even the 3rd invention contains the exhaust air containing high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen flows into a catalyst simultaneously at the time of starting, therefore supply of high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen is attained at an exhaust air purification catalyst. [0010] Moreover, according to the 4th invention, in the 3rd invention, a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning is provided. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from at least one cylinder group among the remaining cylinder groups while making temporarily into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from some cylinder groups among two or more aforementioned cylinder groups, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning is temporarily made rich. A catalyst is temporarily bypassed at the time of the aforementioned starting, the exhaust air discharged by the aforementioned bypass path from each cylinder group is led to an exhaust air purification catalyst, and, thereby, it is made to carry out poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst. That is, an exhaust air purification catalyst is supplied without forming exhaust air containing the exhaust air containing highconcentration HC, and high-concentration oxygen, and consuming HC and the high-concentration oxygen of these high concentration in a catalyst at the time of starting, if it is judged that the exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning even of the 4th invention, and poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out by it. [0011] Moreover, according to the 5th invention, in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, the exhaust air purification catalyst has been arranged in the flueway of the internal combustion engine which is RIN, and the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged by the engine connected the hydrocarbon feed hopper to the flueway of the exhaust air purification catalyst upstream, and arranges the catalyst in the flueway of the hydrocarbon feed-hopper upstream in the internal combustion engine which supplied the hydrocarbon to the exhaust air purification catalyst from the hydrocarbon feed hopper at the time of starting. That is, it is prevented that the exhaust air in which even the 5th invention contains the exhaust air containing high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen flows into a catalyst simultaneously at the time of starting, therefore supply of highconcentration HC and high-concentration oxygen is attained at an exhaust air purification catalyst. [0012] Moreover, according to the 6th invention, a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning in the 5th invention is provided, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning, a hydrocarbon is temporarily supplied from the aforementioned hydrocarbon feed hopper to an exhaust air purification catalyst, and thereby, it is made to carry out poisoning reproduction in an exhaust air purification catalyst. That is, an exhaust air purification catalyst is supplied without consuming high-concentration HC and high-concentration, high-concentration oxygen in a catalyst at the time of starting, if it is judged that the exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning even of the 6th invention, and poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out by it. [0013] Moreover, in order to solve the above-mentioned technical problem, according to the 7th invention, an exhaust air purification catalyst is arranged in the flueway of an internal combustion engine with the rich air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged by the engine. Secondary air supply mouths were connected to the flueway of the exhaust air purification catalyst upstream, and the catalyst is arranged in the flueway of a secondary air supply message style in the internal combustion engine which supplied secondary air to the exhaust air purification catalyst from secondary air supply mouths at the time of starting. That is, it is prevented that the exhaust air in which even the 7th invention contains the exhaust air containing high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen flows into a catalyst simultaneously at the time of starting, therefore supply of high-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen is attained at an exhaust air purification catalyst.

[0014] Moreover, according to the 8th invention, a poisoning judgment means to judge whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning in the 7th invention is provided, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning, secondary air is temporarily supplied from the secondary aforementioned air supply mouths to an exhaust air purification catalyst, and thereby, it is made to carry out poisoning reproduction in an exhaust air purification catalyst. That is, an exhaust air purification catalyst is supplied without consuming high-concentration HC and high-concentration, high-concentration oxygen in a catalyst at the time of starting, if it is judged that the exhaust air purification catalyst is carrying out poisoning even of the 8th invention, and poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out by it. [0015] Moreover, according to the 9th invention, in any one of 2, 4, and the 6 or 8th invention, it judges whether the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst carried out poisoning of the aforementioned poisoning judgment means by part for sulfur. That is, in the 9th invention, when an exhaust air purification catalyst is judged to carry out poisoning by part for sulfur, poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out. Moreover, NOX under exhaust air which flows when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air into which the aforementioned exhaust air purification catalyst flows is RIN in the 9th invention according to the 10th invention Occlusion is carried out. NOX which is carrying out occlusion if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air becomes rich The NOX occlusion reduction catalyst emitted and returned is provided. NOX It is NOX when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst is carrying out poisoning. So that the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which the temperature of an occlusion reduction catalyst becomes higher than the setting temperature defined beforehand, and flows into a NOX occlusion reduction catalyst may become rich The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from each cylinder group is controlled temporarily. That is, by the 10th invention, it is NOX. It is NOX if it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst is carrying out poisoning. Temperature of an occlusion reduction catalyst is made higher than setting temperature, and it is NOX. Since the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst is made rich, it is NOX. A part for the sulfur in an occlusion reduction catalyst is NOX. It is emitted from an occlusion reduction catalyst and poisoning reproduction of the exhaust air purification catalyst is carried out thus.

[0016] Moreover, according to the 11th invention, in 1 or the 3rd invention, the fuel injection valve is arranged to the combustion chamber of each cylinder. Moreover, it is made rich [the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air by which the aforementioned fuel injection valve is discharged from a cylinder group by / secondary / performing fuel injection-like like a second-half / of an engine combustion stroke /, or exhaust air line] in the 11th invention according to the 12th invention. Without burning completely, it results in an exhaust air purification catalyst, and since the fuel (hydrocarbon) by which fuel injection was carried out in 2nd order like the second-half [of an engine combustion stroke] or exhaust air line results in an exhaust air purification catalyst where partial oxidation is carried out, it may be easily burned completely in an exhaust air purification catalyst. Then, in the 12th invention, it is made to perform fuel injection like a second-half [of an engine combustion stroke], or exhaust air line in 2nd order.

[0017]

[Embodiments of the Invention] If <u>drawing 1</u> is referred to, the engine main part 1 possesses four cylinder #1, #2, #3, and #4. Each cylinder is connected to the common surge tank 3 through the corresponding branch pipe 2, respectively, and a surge tank 3 is connected to an air cleaner 5 through an air intake duct 4. A throttle valve 6 is arranged in an air intake duct 4. Moreover, the fuel injection valve 7 which injects fuel directly into a combustion chamber is arranged at the combustion chamber of each cylinder. The fuel which each fuel injection valve 7 is connected to the fuel pump 19 through the common fuel accumulator 18, therefore was breathed out from the fuel pump 19 is distributed to each fuel injection valve 7 from the fuel accumulator 18. If it does in this way, in 1 combustion cycle of each cylinder, multiple-times fuel injection can be performed from a fuel injection valve 7. In addition, each fuel injection valve 7 is controlled based on the output signal from an electronic control unit 20. [0018] Each cylinder is divided into 2nd cylinder group 1b which consists of the 1st cylinder group 1a

which consists of 1 No. cylinder #1 and 4 No. cylinder #4, and 2 No. cylinder #2 and 3 No. cylinder #3 in the internal combustion engine shown in <u>drawing 1</u>. 1st cylinder group 1a is connected to casing 10a which held catalyst 9a through 1st exhaust-manifold 8a at the time of the 1st starting, and 2nd cylinder group 1b is connected to casing 10b which held catalyst 9b through 2nd exhaust-manifold 8b at the time of the 2nd starting. These casing 10a and 10b is connected to the casing 13 which held the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 through the common unification exhaust pipe 11. In addition, the combustion sequence of the internal combustion engine of <u>drawing 1</u> is #1-#3-#4-#2, therefore it overlaps like the exhaust air line of a cylinder mutually in each cylinder group.

[0019] An electronic control unit 20 consists of a digital computer, and possesses ROM (read-only memory)22 and RAM (RAM)23 which were mutually connected by the bidirectional bus 21, backup RAM23a to which firm power is supplied, CPU (microprocessor)24, input port 25, and an output port 26. The pressure sensor 27 which generates the output voltage proportional to the pressure in a surge tank 3 in a surge tank 3 is attached, the coolant temperature sensor 28 which generates the output voltage proportional to engine cooling water temperature on the engine main part 1 is attached, and the air-fuel ratio sensor 29 which generates the output voltage according to the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which circulates this unification section is attached in the unification section of the unification exhaust pipe 11. The output voltage of these pressure sensor 27, a coolant temperature sensor 28, and air-fuel ratio sensor 29 is inputted into input port 25 through corresponding A-D converter 30, respectively. Moreover, whenever it rotates 30 degrees, the crank angle sensor 31 which generates an output pulse is connected to input port 25 for a crankshaft. In CPU24, an inhalation air content is computed based on the output voltage of a pressure sensor 27, and an engine rotational frequency is computed based on the output pulse of the crank angle sensor 31. On the other hand, an output port 26 is connected to each fuel injection valve 7 through the corresponding drive circuit 32, respectively. [0020] Catalysts 9a and 9b are for purifying exhaust air, especially HC as much as possible, mainly by the time the post-exhaust air purification catalyst 12 which the engine put into operation is activated at the time of starting. Since Catalysts 9a and 9b are promptly activated at the time of post-starting which the engine put into operation, at the time of these starting, contiguity arrangement of the catalysts 9a and 9b is carried out in an engine combustion chamber, and heat capacity is made smaller than the exhaust air purification catalyst 12. In the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, Catalysts 9a and 9b are formed from a three way component catalyst at the time of starting. This three way component catalyst makes an alumina support, and noble metals like Platinum Pt, Palladium Pd, Iridium Ir, and Rhodium Rh are supported on this support. This three way component catalyst may function as an oxidation catalyst which oxidizes HC under flowing exhaust air, and CO.

[0021] On the other hand, it sets to the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, and the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 is NOX. It is formed from an occlusion reduction catalyst. This NOX An occlusion reduction catalyst makes an alumina support and at least one chosen from an alkaline earth like Potassium K, Sodium Na, Lithium Li, alkali metal like Caesium Cs, Barium Ba, and Calcium calcium, Lanthanum La, and rare earth like Yttrium Y and noble metals like Platinum Pt, Palladium Pd, Iridium Ir, and Rhodium Rh are supported on this support. It is this NOX if the ratio of all air contents to the total fuel quantity supplied in the combustion chamber and the inhalation-of-air path in the upstream flueway rather than a certain position in a flueway is called the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which circulates the position. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is RIN. NOX which emits NOX which carried out occlusion when occlusion was carried out and the oxygen density under flowing exhaust air fell An absorption/emission action is performed. In addition, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows when fuel or air is not supplied in the flueway of the occlusion reduction-catalyst 12 upstream is in agreement with the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the engine main part 1. Therefore, in this case, it is NOX. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the engine main part 1 is RIN. NOX which carried out occlusion, and carried out occlusion when the oxygen density under exhaust air discharged from the engine main part 1 fell It will emit.

[0022] Above-mentioned NOX It will be this NOX if an occlusion reduction catalyst is arranged in an

engine flueway. An occlusion reduction catalyst is actually NOX. Although an absorption/emission action is performed, there is also a portion which is not clear about the detailed mechanism of this absorption/emission action. However, it is thought that this absorption/emission action is performed by the mechanism as shown in drawing 2. Next, it becomes the same mechanism, even if it uses other noble metals, alkali metal, an alkaline earth, and rare earth, although this mechanism is explained taking the case of the case where Platinum Pt and Barium Ba are made to support, on support.

[0023] That is, as the oxygen density under exhaust air which will flow if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air becomes remarkable RIN increases sharply and is shown in drawing 2 (A), it is these oxygen O2. O2 - Or it adheres to the front face of Platinum Pt in the form of O2-. NO under exhaust air which flows on the other hand -- the front-face top of Platinum Pt -- O2- or O2- reacting -- NO2 It becomes (2 NO+O2 ->2NO2). Subsequently, generated NO2 A part is a nitrate ion NO3, as shown in drawing 2 (A), occlusion being carried out into occlusion material and combining with a barium oxide BaO oxidizing further on Platinum Pt. - It is spread in occlusion material in a form. Thus, NOX Occlusion is carried out into occlusion material.

[0024] As long as the oxygen density under flowing exhaust air is high, it is NO2 in the front face of Platinum Pt. It is generated and is NOX of occlusion material. It is NO2 unless occlusion capacity is saturated. Occlusion is carried out into occlusion material and it is a nitrate ion NO3. - It is generated. On the other hand, the oxygen density under flowing exhaust air falls, and it is NO2. When the amount of generation falls, a reaction progresses to an opposite direction (NO3-->NO2), and it is the nitrate ion NO3 in occlusion material thus. - NO2 It is emitted from occlusion material in a form. That is, it is NOX if the oxygen density under flowing exhaust air falls. An occlusion reduction catalyst to NOX It will be emitted. If the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which the oxygen density under exhaust air which will flow if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is made into a rich side falls, therefore flows is made into a rich side, it will be a NOX occlusion reduction catalyst to NOX. It will be emitted. [0025] On the other hand, it is NOX if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows at this time is made rich. High-concentration HC or high-concentration CO will be contained during the exhaust air which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst, and these [HC and CO] are oxygen O2 on Platinum Pt. - Or you react with O2- and it is made to oxidize. Moreover, it is occlusion material to NO2 in order for the oxygen density under exhaust air which will flow if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is made rich to fall to a degree very much. It is emitted and is this NO2. You react with HC or CO and it is made to return, as shown in drawing 2 (B). Thus, it is NO2 on the front face of Platinum Pt. When it stops existing, it is NO2 from occlusion material to the degree from a degree. It is emitted. Therefore, if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is made rich, it is NOX to the inside of a short time. An occlusion reduction catalyst to NOX It will be emitted.

[0026] Thus, it is NOX if the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air becomes RIN. NOX It is NOX, if occlusion is carried out to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 and the air-fuel ratio of the flowing exhaust air is made rich. NOX It is emitted to the inside of a short time from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Therefore, with the internal combustion engine shown in drawing 1, it is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is usually made into RIN. NOX of the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 It is NOX when the amount of occlusion becomes more than a constant rate. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich, and it is NOX. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to NOX It is made to emit. This emitted NOX It is made to return by HC and CO under flowing exhaust air. [0027] It will be NOX, if the fuel injection to which an engine exhaust air line will be carried out by the first half from an engine intake stroke is called main-fuel injection in order to obtain engine driving force and the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by this main-fuel injection will be temporarily made rich. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can be temporarily made rich. However, if the-like secondary fuel injection performed like a second-half of an engine combustion stroke or exhaust air line is called subfuel injection, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber can be made rich also by performing subfuel injection. In this case, the fuel by subfuel injection is a

combustion chamber or NOX. Partial oxidation is carried out without carrying out complete oxidation in the flueway of the occlusion reduction-catalyst 12 upstream, and, for this reason, it is NOX. It sets to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and is NOX. It can return easily. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. NOX of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 It is NOX, when the amount of occlusion becomes more than a constant rate and only fixed time performs subfuel injection in all cylinders. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich, and, thereby, it is NOX. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to NOX It is made to return while making it emit. In addition, the fuel by subfuel injection is hardly contributed for engine driving force.

[0028] With the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, usually, in 1 combustion cycle of all cylinders, fuel injection is performed once, namely, in other words, only main-fuel injection is performed. It is carried out to RIN, about 16.0 [for example,], therefore the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection at this time is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN. On the other hand, NOX The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to NOX When it should emit, in 1 combustion cycle of all cylinders, fuel injection is performed twice, namely, main-fuel injection and subfuel injection are performed. It is carried out to the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which is made into RIN, about 16.0 for example,], however is discharged by subfuel injection from a combustion chamber being rich, about 12.0 [for example,], and, thereby, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection at this time is NOX. It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is rich. In addition, subfuel injection can be set to the degree grade of after [a compression top dead center] 90 to 150 crank angle. [0029] however, the amount of sulfur contains during the flowing exhaust air -- having -- **** -- NOX the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 -- NOX not only -- a part for sulfur, for example, SOX, Occlusion is carried out. This NOX The occlusion mechanism for sulfur to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. It is thought that it is the same as an occlusion mechanism. Namely, NOX If it explains taking the case of the case where Platinum Pt and Barium Ba are made to support, on support like the time of explaining an occlusion mechanism the time of the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows as mentioned above being RIN -- oxygen O2 O2- Or SOX under exhaust air which has adhered to the front face of Platinum Pt and flows in the form of O2- For example, SO2 the front face of Platinum Pt -- O2or O2- reacting -- SO3 It becomes. Subsequently, generated SO3 It is sulfate-ion SO42, occlusion being carried out into occlusion material and combining with a barium oxide BaO oxidizing further on Platinum Pt. - It is spread in occlusion material in a form. Subsequently, this sulfate-ion SO42 - It combines with barium ion Ba2+, and is a sulfate BaSO4. It generates. [0030] However, this sulfate BaSO4 Even if it only makes rich the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which decomposes, and ***** and flows, it is a sulfate BaSO4. It remains as it is, without being decomposed. Therefore, it is a sulfate BaSO4 as time passes inside. It is NOX as it will increase and time passes thus. NOX in which the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can carry out occlusion An amount will fall. Namely, NOX The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 will carry out poisoning by part for sulfur. [0031] However, NOX Sulfate BaSO4 generated within the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 NOX It will decompose, if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows when the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is high turns into rich or theoretical air fuel ratio, and it is sulfate-ion SO42. - SO3 It is emitted from occlusion material in a form, namely, is NOX. Poisoning reproduction of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is carried out. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, is NOX. It judges whether the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur. NOX It is NOX when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur. The setting temperature, i.e., NOX, which was able to define the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 beforehand It is made higher than temperature required in order to make a part for sulfur emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. And NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich, and it is NOX by it. Are making make a part for sulfur emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, namely, it is NOX. It is made to carry out

poisoning reproduction of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. In addition, SO3 emitted at this time It is SO2 immediately by HC under flowing exhaust air, and CO. It is made to return.

[0032] By the way, NOX It is NOX if oxidation reaction of HC or CO arises in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. The temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes high, and it is NOX in this case. It is NOX, so that for example, the amount of HC which oxidizes in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 increases. The temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes high. On the other hand, if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber is made rich, exhaust air containing high-concentration HC will be formed, and when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber is made into RIN, exhaust air containing high-concentration oxygen will be formed. Therefore, it is NOX simultaneously about these exhaust air. Since oxidation reaction of a lot of HC will arise if it leads to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, it is NOX. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can be made very much into an elevated temperature, and it is NOX simultaneously. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can be made rich. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. When a part for sulfur should be made to emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, while making temporarily into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b is temporarily made rich, and moreover, it is NOX at this time. It is made to make rich the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 temporarily.

[0033] In this case, in 1st cylinder group 1a, in 1 combustion cycle, fuel injection is performed once, namely, only main-fuel injection is performed. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection at this time is made into RIN, about 16.0 [for example,], therefore is discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN. On the other hand, in 2nd cylinder group 1b, in 1 combustion cycle, fuel injection is performed twice, namely, main-fuel injection and subfuel injection are performed. The air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection at this time is made rich [the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which is made into RIN, about 16.0 / for example, /, however is discharged by subfuel injection from 2nd cylinder group 1b], about 12.0 [for example,]. In this case, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is set to about 14.0.

[0034] NOX It is difficult to judge directly whether the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is carrying out poisoning by part for sulfur. However, NOX It is NOX if the amount for the sulfur by which occlusion was carried out to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes more than a constant rate. It can judge that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is carrying out poisoning, and is this NOX. The amount for the sulfur by which occlusion was carried out to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. It is proportional to the addition fuel oil consumption STAU in case the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is RIN. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. It is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is RIN (i.e., when the addition fuel oil consumption STAU at the time of operation is usually calculated and this addition fuel oil consumption STAU increases more than the constant value STAU1 defined beforehand). It is made to judge that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is carrying out poisoning by part for sulfur.

[0035] Like [when for example engine idling operation is performed for a long time], a place is NOX, when the temperature of the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is low. It is NOX, without these HC a lot of fully oxidizing, even if it supplies a lot of HC to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. There is a possibility that it may be discharged from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Or NOX It is NOX to temperature required in order to make a part for sulfur fully emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, for example, 600 degrees C. In order to raise the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, very a lot of HC or time are needed. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. It is NOX when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is carrying out poisoning by part for sulfur. When higher than 500 degrees C, it judges that sulfur part discharge conditions were satisfied

from the setting temperature as which the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 was determined beforehand, 400 [for example,], and it is made to perform a sulfur part discharge operation. That is, while making into RIN the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b is made rich, and it is NOX. It is made to make rich the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. In addition, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the air-fuel ratio or each cylinder of a gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder in each cylinder group is made the same. [0036] It will be NOX if a temperature sensor is arranged in a flueway. Although it can judge whether the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is higher than setting temperature, it can judge based on engine operational status. That is, more than fixed time, an engine load is NOX, for example, when higher than constant value. It can be judged that the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is higher than setting temperature. Then, when higher than constant value, it is made for an engine load to judge that sulfur part discharge conditions were satisfied more than fixed time in the internal combustion engine of drawing 1.

[0037] Per [NOX] unit time The amount for the sulfur emitted from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is per [NOX] unit time, if the temperature of the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is high to some extent. It is proportional to HC and the amount of reducing agents like CO which flow into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and is per [NOX] this unit time. The amount of reducing agents which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is per unit time. It is proportional to exhaust air capacity with the rich air-fuel ratio which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. The addition exhaust air capacity SEG of exhaust air with the rich air-fuel ratio which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is calculated, and it is made to perform a sulfur part discharge operation until this addition exhaust air capacity SEG becomes larger than the set point SEG1 defined beforehand. That is, it is NOX when it becomes SEG>SEG1. It can be judged that the catalyst poisoning of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 was reproduced.

[0038] However, when the sulfur part discharge operation is performed, engine idling operation is performed, and it is NOX. If the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 falls, above-mentioned sulfur part discharge conditions will become abortive, and a sulfur part discharge operation will be interrupted in this case. Thus, a sulfur part discharge operation is repeatedly performed until the addition exhaust air capacity SEG becomes the set point SEG1, when a sulfur part discharge operation is interrupted. In addition, completion of a sulfur part discharge operation clears the addition fuel injection duration STAU.

[0039] Thus, if the addition exhaust air capacity SEG becomes the set point SEG1, a sulfur part discharge operation will be completed, or if sulfur part discharge conditions become abortive during a sulfur part discharge operation, a sulfur part discharge operation will be interrupted. However, it is NOX after the sulfur part discharge operation was completed or interrupted. If the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is immediately returned to RIN, it is NOX at this time. Since it is comparatively high, the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. The catalyst component Pt of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, for example, platinum, becomes easy to produce sintering. On the other hand, it is NOX. It is NOX, preventing sintering of Platinum Pt, if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into theoretical air fuel ratio. It can be made to fall to the temperature from which sintering does not produce the temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Then, it is NOX when a sulfur part discharge operation is completed or interrupted for the internal combustion engine of drawing 1. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and it is NOX after that. It is made to return the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to RIN. In this case, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to the combustion chamber of all cylinders by main-fuel injection is temporarily made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and subfuel injection is not performed. [0040] In this case, NOX Time required in order to cool to the temperature from which sintering does not produce the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX at the time of the sulfur part discharge operation

performed immediately before. It is proportional to the exhaust air capacity of exhaust air with the rich air-fuel ratio which circulated the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and, on the other hand, is NOX. The cooling rate of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is per [NOX] unit time. The air-fuel ratio which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is proportional to the exhaust air capacity of exhaust air of theoretical air fuel ratio. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is NOX. The addition exhaust air capacity SFB of exhaust air of the air-fuel ratio which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 of theoretical air fuel ratio is calculated. It is NOX at the time of the sulfur part discharge operation performed immediately before. The set point SFB1 which will become large if the exhaust air capacity of exhaust air with the rich air-fuel ratio which circulated the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes large is calculated. It is NOX until the addition exhaust air capacity SFB becomes larger than the set point SFB1. It is made to maintain the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to theoretical air fuel ratio. In addition, it is NOX, when engine operational status is fixed and a sulfur part discharge operation is performed, for example for about 20 seconds. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is maintained by theoretical air fuel ratio only for about 60 seconds.

[0041] Next, the calculation method of the fuel injection duration of the internal combustion engine of drawing 1 is explained. As mentioned above, main-fuel injection and subfuel injection are performed, and it sells at the internal combustion engine of drawing 1. The fuel injection duration TAUM in mainfuel injection is computed for example, based on the following formula.

TAUM=TP-FAF-KI-KM -- here -- TP -- basic fuel injection duration -- in FAF, KI shows the increase-in-quantity correction factor, and KM shows the main air-fuel ratio correction factor for the feedback correction factor, respectively

[0042] The basic fuel injection duration TP shows fuel injection duration required to make into theoretical air fuel ratio the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to an engine combustion chamber. This basic fuel injection duration TP is beforehand found by experiment, and is beforehand memorized in ROM22 in the form of a map as shown in drawing 3 as a function of engine load Q/N (inhalation air-content Q / engine rotational frequency N) and the engine rotational frequency N. [0043] The feedback correction factor FAF is a correction factor for maintaining the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber to theoretical air fuel ratio. This feedback correction factor FAF is defined based on the output signal from the air-fuel ratio sensor 29, when the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber should be made theoretical air fuel ratio, and it is fixed to 1.0 except it. The increase-in-quantity correction factor KI expresses by putting together an increase-in-quantity correction factor, a pre-heating increase-in-quantity correction factor, an acceleration increase-in-quantity correction factor, etc. at the time of starting, and when there is no amendment need, it is set to KI=1.0.

[0044] If it is a coefficient for controlling the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM and is KM=1.0, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection will turn into theoretical air fuel ratio. On the other hand, if the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection will become larger than theoretical air fuel ratio if set to KM<1.0, namely, it becomes RIN and it is set to KM>1.0, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection will become smaller than theoretical air fuel ratio, namely, will become rich.

[0045] On the other hand, the fuel injection duration TAUS in subfuel injection is computed for example, based on the following formula.

TAUS=TP-FAF-KI-KS -- KS expresses the subair-fuel ratio correction factor here This subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber, i.e., NOX, by controlling the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by subfuel injection. It is a coefficient for controlling the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. That is, if it is KE=1.0 when the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE is called, since the total fuel quantity supplied to a combustion chamber from a fuel injection

valve 7 is proportional to (KM+KS) (KM+KS), the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber will turn into theoretical air fuel ratio. On the other hand, if the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber will become larger than theoretical air fuel ratio if set to KE<1.0, namely, it becomes RIN and it is set to KE>1.0, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from a combustion chamber will become smaller than theoretical air fuel ratio, namely, will become rich. In the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction-factor KE and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is computed first, and the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is computed as a difference (KE-KM) of these correction factors. In this case, if the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS serves as zero, subfuel injection will not be performed. In addition, main air-fuel ratio amendment ****KM and the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE are set to KAMKAE, respectively, when the fuel injection duration which it is going to find is a thing for 1st cylinder group 1a, and when it is a thing for 2nd cylinder group 1b, they are set to KBMKBE, respectively.

[0046] By the way, as mentioned above, a catalyst is NOX at the time of starting. It is for purifying exhaust air as much as possible, by the time the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is activated, therefore this purpose can be attained though a catalyst is arranged to the unification circles of the unification exhaust pipe 11 at the time of starting. However, it will flow into a catalyst at the time of starting, HC and oxygen under these exhaust air being mixed, if the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air of 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN and the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air of 2nd cylinder part 1b is made rich, when the catalyst has been arranged to the unification circles of the unification exhaust pipe 11 at the time of starting, and the great portion of HC under exhaust air will oxidize in a catalyst at the time of this starting. Namely, NOX The amount of HC and the amount of oxygen which result in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 decrease, and it is NOX thus. Temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 cannot fully be raised.

[0047] On the other hand, in the embodiment by this invention, exhaust air of 1st cylinder group 1a circulates catalyst 9a at the time of starting, without being mixed with exhaust air of 2nd cylinder group 1b, and exhaust air of 2nd cylinder group 1b circulates catalyst 9b at the time of starting, without being mixed with exhaust air of 1st cylinder group 1a. For this reason, when the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air of 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN and the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air of 2nd cylinder part 1b is made rich, the amount of oxygen consumed in catalyst 9a at the time of starting is reduced, and the amount of HC consumed in catalyst 9b at the time of starting is reduced. Therefore, NOX A lot of HC and oxygen can be certainly supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and it is NOX thus. The temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can be raised certainly.

[0048] Drawing 6 shows the interruption routine which was defined beforehand and which is performed for every setup time from drawing 4. If drawing 6 is referred to from drawing 4, at Step 40, it is NOX first. It is set when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 should be made theoretical air fuel ratio, and it is distinguished except it whether FB flag reset is set. It is set, when it should progress subsequently to Step 41 and a sulfur part discharge operation should be performed, since this FB flag is usually reset, and it is distinguished except it whether the sulfur part discharge flag reset is set. Since this sulfur part discharge flag is usually reset, subsequently to Step 42 it progresses and is NOX. It is distinguished whether the addition fuel injection duration STAU when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN is larger than the setup time STAU1 defined beforehand. Subsequently to Step 43 at the time of STAU<=STAU1, it progresses, and is NOX. It is NOX which is set when a discharge operation should be performed, and is reset except it. It is distinguished whether the discharge flag is set. This NOX Since the discharge flag is usually reset, subsequently to Steps 44 and 45 it progresses, and is NOX. Occlusion NOX of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 An amount SN is calculated. At this time, it is NOX. It considers as RIN, therefore the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. At the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, it is NOX. An occlusion operation is performed. NOX by which occlusion is carried out to the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 per unit time An amount is NOX. NOX which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 per unit time It is

almost equal to an amount FN, and is this inflow NOX. It depends for an amount FN on engine operational status.

[0049] Each curve is the same inflow NOX. It is Inflow NOX as shown in drawing 7 (A) which shows the amount FN. An amount FN increases, so that engine load Q/N (inhalation air-content Q / engine rotational frequency N) becomes high, and it increases, so that the engine rotational frequency N becomes high. Then, with the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is Inflow NOX. The amount is beforehand calculated by experiment as a function of engine load Q/N and the engine rotational frequency N, and it is based on engine load Q/N and the engine rotational frequency N, and is Inflow NOX. It is made to compute an amount FN. This inflow NOX The amount FN is beforehand memorized in ROM22 in the form of the map shown in drawing 7 (B). At continuing Step 45, it is based on the following formula, and is Occlusion NOX. An amount S is computed.

[0050] SN=SN+FN-DLT -- DLT is the time to this routine from the last routine, and is calculated by the timer formed in the electronic control unit 20 here Therefore, FN-DLT is NOX by the routine of this time [routine / last]. NOX by which occlusion was carried out into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 The amount is shown. At continuing Step 46, it is Occlusion NOX. It is distinguished whether an amount SN is larger than the preset value SN1 defined beforehand, this preset value SN1 -- for example, NOX a maximum of [in which the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can carry out occlusion] -- NOX It is about 30% of an amount. If it is SN>SN1, if it is SN<=SN1, a processing cycle will be completed, and it progresses to Step 47, and is NOX. A discharge flag is set.

[0051] NOX When a discharge flag is set, it progresses to Step 48 from Step 43. At this time, it is NOX. It is supposed that it is rich, therefore the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. At the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, it is NOX. A discharge operation is performed. At Step 48, it is NOX. It is NOX after a discharge flag is set. After the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made rich, it is distinguished whether only fixed time passed only for 1 second. When fixed time progress is carried out, when having not carried out fixed time progress, a processing cycle is completed, and subsequently to Step 49 it progresses, and is Occlusion NOX. An amount SN is cleared (SN=0). At continuing Step 50, it is NOX. A discharge flag is reset and a processing cycle is completed. At this time, it is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is returned to RIN. [0052] When the addition fuel injection duration STAU becomes larger than the setup time STAU1, it progresses to Step 51 from Step 42, and it is distinguished whether sulfur part discharge conditions were satisfied. In the internal combustion engine of drawing 1, it is judged that sulfur part discharge conditions were satisfied by engine load Q/N more than fixed time when higher than constant value as mentioned above. When sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied, subsequently to Step 52 it progresses and a sulfur part discharge flag is set.

[0053] When a sulfur part discharge flag is set, it progresses to Step 53 from Step 41. At this time, it is NOX. It is supposed that it is rich, therefore the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is NOX. At the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, it is NOX in a sulfur part discharge operation. A discharge operation is also performed. Then, at Step 53, it is Occlusion NOX. It is made to clear an amount SN (SN=0). It is NOX after a sulfur part discharge operation is started at continuing Step 54 before a sulfur part discharge operation is completed. The addition exhaust air capacity SEG which circulated the inside of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is computed based on the following formula.

[0054] SEG=SEG+Ga-DLT -- here -- Ga -- an inhalation air mass flow rate -- being shown -- **** -- therefore -- by the routine of this time [Ga-DLT / routine / last] -- NOX The exhaust air capacity which flowed into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is shown. It is NOX after a sulfur part discharge operation is started or resumed at continuing Step 55 before a sulfur part discharge operation is completed or interrupted. Exhaust air capacity PSEG which circulated the inside of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is computed based on the following formula.

[0055] At the PSEG=PSEG+Ga-DLT **** step 56, it is distinguished whether the addition exhaust air capacity SEG is larger than the set point SEG1 defined beforehand. When not fully carried out at the

time of SEG<=SEG1, i.e., a sulfur part discharge operation, subsequently to Step 57 it progresses, and it is distinguished whether sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied. When sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied, a processing cycle is completed, therefore a sulfur part discharge operation is continued. On the other hand, when sulfur part discharge conditions are abortive, subsequently to Step 60, it jumps. On the other hand, when it is fully carried out at the time of SEG>SEG1, i.e., a sulfur part discharge operation, in Step 56, subsequently to Step 58 it progresses, when a sulfur part discharge operation should be completed, it is set, and the completion flag reset is set except it. The addition exhaust air capacity SEG is cleared at continuing Step 59 (SEG=0). Subsequently, it progresses to Step 60.

[0056] A sulfur part discharge flag is reset at Step 60. When a sulfur part discharge operation is stopped so that it may mention later, if a sulfur part discharge flag is reset, therefore it progresses to Step 60 from Step 59, it is made for a sulfur part discharge operation to be completed, and when it progresses to Step 60 from Step 57, it is made for a sulfur part discharge operation to be interrupted. FB flag is set at continuing Step 61. It is NOX if FB flag is set. Let the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 be theoretical air fuel ratio. Let multiplication result k-PSEG which carried out the multiplication of the constant value k to exhaust air capacity PSEG be the set point SFB1 at continuing Step 62. At continuing Step 63, exhaust air capacity PSEG is cleared (PSEG=0) and, subsequently a processing cycle is completed.

[0057] When FB flag is set, sometimes, it progresses from Step 40 at Step 64, and is NOX. It is NOX when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into theoretical air fuel ratio. The addition exhaust air capacity SFB which circulated the inside of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is computed based on the following formula.

At the SFB=SFB+Ga-DLT **** step 65, it is distinguished whether the addition exhaust air capacity SFB is larger than the set point SFB1. At the time of SFB<=SFB1, it is NOX. It judges that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is not fully cooled, and a processing cycle is completed, namely, it is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is maintained to theoretical air fuel ratio. On the other hand, subsequently to Step 66 at the time of SFB>SFB1, it progresses, and FB flag is reset. Therefore, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is returned to RIN. The addition exhaust air capacity SFB is cleared at continuing Step 67 (SFB=0). It is distinguished at continuing Step 68 whether the completion flag is set. A processing cycle is completed, after progressing subsequently to Step 69, clearing the addition fuel injection duration STAU (STAU=0), progressing subsequently to Step 70 and resetting a completion flag, when the completion flag is set (i.e., when the sulfur part discharge operation was completed and it progresses to Step 68). On the other hand, a processing cycle is completed, without clearing the addition fuel injection duration STAU, when the completion flag is not set (i.e., when it is step 68 and progresses by having interrupted the sulfur part discharge operation). Therefore, in a consecutive processing cycle, since it progresses to Step 51 from Step 42, if sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied again, a sulfur part discharge operation will be resumed. [0058] The routine for drawing 10 computing fuel injection duration from drawing 8 is shown. This routine is performed by interruption for every setting crank angle defined beforehand. Reference of from drawing 8 to drawing 10 computes the basic fuel injection duration TP from the map of drawing 3 at Step 80 first. At continuing Step 81, the increase-in-quantity correction factor KI is computed. At continuing Step 82, it is distinguished whether the engine cooling water temperature THW is higher than the setting temperature THW1. It is distinguished whether FB flag which progressed subsequently to Step 83 when having completed at the time of THW>THW1, i.e., engine pre-heating operation, and was mentioned above is set. When FB flag is reset, subsequently to Step 84 it progresses, and the feedback correction factor FAF is fixed to 1.0. It is distinguished at continuing Step 85 whether the sulfur part discharge flag is set. When the sulfur part discharge flag is reset, subsequently to Step 86 it progresses and is NOX. It is distinguished whether the discharge flag is set. NOX When the discharge flag is reset, subsequently to Step 87, it progresses. The exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KAE of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 0.9, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KAM of 1st cylinder group

1a is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 88. At continuing Step 89, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KBE of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 0.9, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KBM of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 90. That is, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is zero, subfuel injection is not performed. Moreover, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b and the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture which is made into RIN and supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 2nd cylinder group 1b are made into RIN, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is zero, subfuel injection is not performed. Subsequently, it is set when above-mentioned addition fuel injection duration should be computed by progressing to Step 91, and except it, it progresses to Step 106, after setting the calculation flag reset.

[0059] On the other hand, it sets to Step 86 and is NOX. When the discharge flag is set, subsequently to Step 92, it progresses. The exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KAE of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 1.2, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KAM of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 93. At continuing Step 94, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KBE of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 1.2, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KBM of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 95. That is, it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is rich, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, and since the subair-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b and the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture which is made rich and supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 2nd cylinder group 1b are rich, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is 0.3, subfuel injection is performed. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 106.

[0060] On the other hand, when the sulfur part flag is set in Step 85, subsequently to Step 96, it progresses. The exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KAE of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 0.9, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KAM of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 97. At continuing Step 98, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KBE of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 1.2, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KBM of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 0.9 at continuing Step 99. That is, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is zero, subfuel injection is not performed. On the other hand, it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b is rich, it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 2nd cylinder group 1b is rich, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is 0.3, subfuel injection is performed. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 106.

[0061] On the other hand, when FB flag is set in Step 83, subsequently to Step 100, it progresses, and the feedback correction factor FAF is computed. At continuing Step 101, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KAE of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 1.0, at continuing Step 102, the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KAM of 1st cylinder group 1a is set to 1.0, at continuing Step 103, the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KBE of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 1.0, and the main air-fuel ratio correction factor KBM of 2nd cylinder group 1b is set to 1.0 at continuing Step 104. That is, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 1st cylinder group 1a is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is zero, subfuel injection is not performed. Moreover, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b and the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture which is made into theoretical air fuel ratio and supplied to a combustion chamber by main-fuel injection in 2nd cylinder group 1b are made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and since the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is zero, subfuel

injection is not performed. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 106. [0062] On the other hand, subsequently to Step 105 in Step 82, it may be subsequently to Step 105 in Step 82.

[0062] On the other hand, subsequently to Step 105 in Step 82, it progresses at the time of THW<=THW1, at i.e., the time of engine pre-heating operation, and it progresses to Step 106, after fixing the feedback correction factor FAF to 1.0 and progressing to Steps 101-104. At Step 106, it is distinguished whether it is a thing for cylinder group 1b2nd of whether the fuel injection duration which it is going to find in this processing cycle is a thing for 1st cylinder group 1a. When the fuel injection duration which it is going to find in this processing cycle is a thing for 1st cylinder group 1a, subsequently to Step 107 it progresses, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to KAM. At continuing Step 108, the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is computed as a difference (KAE-KAM) of KAE and KAM. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111. On the other hand, when the fuel injection duration which it is going to find in this processing cycle is a thing for 2nd cylinder group 1b, subsequently to Step 109 it progresses, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to KBM. At continuing Step 110, the subair-fuel ratio correction factor KS is computed as a difference (KBE-KBM) of KBE and KBM. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111.

[0063] At Step 111, the main-fuel injection time TAUM is computed based on the following formula. At Step 112 which continues TAUM=TP-FAF-KI-KM, the subfuel injection duration TAUS is computed based on the following formula.

By subfuel injection, fuel injection is performed [TAUS] only for TAUM by TAUS=TP-FAF-KI-KS main-fuel injection, respectively. It is distinguished at continuing Step 113 whether the calculation flag is set. When the calculation flag is reset, a processing cycle is completed, when the calculation flag is set to this, subsequently to Step 114 it progresses, and the addition fuel injection duration STAU is computed based on the following formula.

[0064] It ranks second STAU=STAU+TAUM+TAUS and progresses to Step 115, and a processing cycle is completed after resetting a calculation flag. Another embodiment is shown in drawing 11. The cylinder is divided into 1st cylinder group 1a and 2nd cylinder group 1b also in this embodiment. However, in this embodiment, these cylinder groups 1a and 1b are connected to the common exhaust manifold 8, and this exhaust manifold 8 is connected to the casing 10 which held the catalyst 9, for example, a three way component catalyst, through the exhaust pipe 35 at the time of starting. Namely, in this embodiment, a catalyst 9 is established at the time of single starting. Casing 10 minds an exhaust pipe 36 and is an exhaust air purification catalyst, for example, NOX. It connects with the casing 13 which held the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Furthermore, as shown in drawing 11, the by-path pipe 37 which connects an exhaust pipe 35 and the exhaust pipe 36 of each other is formed, and in the inflow edge of this by-path pipe 37, the bypass-control valve 39 controlled by the actuator 38 is arranged. All exhaust air that the bypass-control valve 39 usually intercepted the by-path pipe 37, therefore was discharged by the engine circulates the inside of a catalyst 9 at the time of starting. On the other hand, all exhaust air that the free passage with a catalyst 9 was intercepted at the time of an exhaust manifold 8 and starting when the bypass-control valve 39 could open the by-path pipe 37 wide and closed, therefore was discharged by the engine bypasses a catalyst 9 at the time of starting, circulates the inside of a bypath pipe 37, and, subsequently is NOX. It results in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. In addition, it connects with the output port 26 through the drive circuit 32 of an electronic control unit 20, and an actuator 38 is controlled based on the output signal from an electronic control unit 20. [0065] At this embodiment as well as an above-mentioned embodiment, it is NOX. When a part for sulfur should be made to emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a is made into RIN, and it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of exhaust air discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b is rich, and it is NOX. It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is rich. Furthermore, a by-path pipe 37 is wide opened by the bypass-control valve 39 at this time, and a free passage with a catalyst 9 is intercepted at the time of an exhaust manifold 8 and starting. Consequently, it is prevented that exhaust air containing the high-concentration air discharged from 1st cylinder group 1a and exhaust air containing high-concentration HC discharged from 2nd cylinder group 1b circulate the inside of a three way component catalyst 9 simultaneously. Therefore, since the amount of oxygen and the amount

of HC which are consumed in a catalyst 9 at the time of starting are reduced, it is NOX. A lot of HC and oxygen can be certainly supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and it is NOX thus. The temperature of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can be raised certainly.

[0066] <u>Drawing 12</u> shows the routine for controlling a bypass-control valve. This routine is performed by interruption for every setup time defined beforehand. In addition, the calculation routine of the fuel injection duration which it interrupted, and the routine was performed, and referred to and explained from <u>drawing 8</u> to <u>drawing 10</u> which referred to and explained from <u>drawing 4</u> to <u>drawing 6</u> also in this embodiment is performed.

[0067] Reference of <u>drawing 12</u> distinguishes first whether the sulfur part discharge flag set or reset by the interruption routine shown by <u>drawing 6</u> is set from <u>drawing 4</u> at Step 120. When the sulfur part discharge flag is reset, while progressing subsequently to Step 121, controlling the bypass-control valve 39 and intercepting a by-path pipe 37, a free passage with a catalyst 9 is secured at the time of an exhaust manifold 8 and starting. On the other hand, when the sulfur part discharge flag is set, while progressing subsequently to Step 122, controlling the bypass-control valve 39, being able to open a bypath pipe 37 wide and closing, a free passage with a catalyst 9 is intercepted at the time of an exhaust manifold 8 and starting. In addition, since other composition and operations are the same as that of an above-mentioned embodiment, they omit explanation.

[0068] In the embodiment described so far, each cylinder group is formed from two or more cylinders. However, you may form each cylinder group from a single cylinder. Moreover, although the cylinder is divided into the cylinder groups 1a and 1b of a couple in the embodiment described so far, you may divide a cylinder into three or more cylinder groups. For example, when a cylinder is divided into three cylinder groups in the embodiment shown in drawing 11, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the 1st cylinder group when a part for sulfur should be made to emit from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the 2nd cylinder group is made rich, the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the 3rd cylinder group is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and, moreover, it is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the whole exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 can become rich.

[0069] Still more nearly another embodiment is shown in <u>drawing 13</u>. If <u>drawing 13</u> is referred to, each cylinder is connected to the casing 10 which held the catalyst 9, for example, a three way component catalyst, through the common exhaust manifold 8 at the time of starting, casing 10 minds an exhaust pipe 130, and it is an exhaust air purification catalyst, for example, NOX. It connects with the casing 13 which held the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. In an exhaust pipe 130, it is NOX. The secondary fuel injection valve 131 which can supply secondary fuel to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is attached. This secondary fuel injection valve 131 is connected to a fuel injection valve 7 and a common fuel tank through the fuel pump of the addition which is not illustrated. Moreover, it connects with the output port 26 through the drive circuit 32 of an electronic control unit 20, and the secondary fuel injection valve 131 is controlled based on the output signal from an electronic control unit 20.

[0070] In this embodiment, a cylinder is not divided into a cylinder group but the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air discharged from the air-fuel ratio or each cylinder of a gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is made the same. Moreover, only main-fuel injection is performed in each cylinder, and subfuel injection is not performed. It is usually NOX also at this embodiment. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN, and it is NOX. Occlusion NOX of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 It is NOX when an amount becomes more than a constant rate. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich. Moreover, NOX It is NOX, when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur and sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied. It is NOX, the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 being heated temporarily. It is NOX, when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich and a sulfur part discharge operation is completed or interrupted. Let temporarily the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 be theoretical air fuel ratio.

[0071] NOX When the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst

12 should be made RIN, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is made into RIN, and the secondary fuel injection of the secondary fuel injection valve 131 stops at this time. On the other hand, NOX Secondary fuel injection of the secondary fuel injection valve 131 is performed the airfuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder being made into RIN when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 should be made rich. In this case, if comparatively a lot of [the air-fuel ratio discharged by the engine] oxygen to exhaust air of RIN is contained, therefore the secondary fuel injection valve 131 performs secondary fuel injection, it will be NOX at this time. A lot of oxygen and HC will be supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Subsequently these oxygen and HC of a lot of are NOX. It reacts in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made to heat promptly to temperature sufficient for a sulfur part discharge operation thus. Moreover, it is NOX at this time. It will be NOX if secondary fuel oil consumption is controlled so that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes rich. A part for sulfur is emitted from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. [0072] It is prevented at the time of starting that the catalyst 9 is located in an exhaust air upstream rather than the fuel nozzle hole of the secondary fuel injection valve 131, therefore a lot of oxygen and HC flow into a catalyst 9 simultaneously at the time of starting so that drawing 13 may show. Therefore, NOX A lot of oxygen and HC can be supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and it becomes possible to fully perform a sulfur part discharge operation thus.

[0073] <u>Drawing 16</u> shows the fuel-injection-duration calculation routine in this embodiment from <u>drawing 14</u>. In the fuel-injection-duration calculation routine which shows this routine by drawing 10 from <u>drawing 8</u>, even Steps 87-90 are transposed to Steps 87a and 88a. Even Steps 92-95 are transposed to Steps 92a and 93a. Even Steps 96-99 are transposed to Steps 96a and 97a. Even Steps 101-104 are transposed to Steps 101a and 102a, even Steps 106-108 are transposed to step 108a, and Steps 112 and 114 are transposed to Steps 112a and 114a, respectively. Moreover, the interruption routine explained with reference to <u>drawing 6</u> from <u>drawing 4</u> also in this embodiment is performed.

[0074] If a changed part is explained, it sets to Step 86 and is NOX. When the flag is reset, subsequently to step 87a it progresses, and the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE is set to 0.9, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 0.9 in continuing step 88a. Namely, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into RIN, and since the secondary fuel-injection air-fuel ratio correction factor KSS is zero, secondary fuel injection is not performed. Subsequently, it progresses to step 108a, after progressing to Step 91 and setting a calculation flag. On the other hand, it sets to Step 86 and is NOX. When the flag is set, subsequently to step 92a it progresses, and the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE is set to 1.2, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 0.9 in continuing step 93a. Namely, NOX It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is rich, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into RIN, and since the secondary fuel-injection air-fuel ratio correction factor KSS is 0.3, secondary fuel injection is performed. Subsequently, it progresses to step 108a.

[0075] On the other hand, when the sulfur part discharge flag is set in Step 85, subsequently to step 96a, it progresses, and the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE is set to 1.2, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 0.9 in continuing step 97a. Namely, NOX It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is rich, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into RIN, and since the secondary fuel-injection air-fuel ratio correction factor KSS is 0.3, secondary fuel injection is performed. Subsequently, it progresses to step 108a.

[0076] On the other hand, after computing the feedback correction factor FAF in Step 100, or after fixing the feedback correction factor FAF to 1.0 in Step 105, it progresses to step 101a, and the exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction factor KE is set to 1.0, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 1.0 in continuing step 102a. Namely, NOX The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous

mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and since the secondary fuel-injection air-fuel ratio correction factor KSS is zero, secondary fuel injection is not performed. Subsequently, it progresses to step 108a.

[0077] In step 108a, the secondary fuel-injection air-fuel ratio correction factor KSS is computed as an exhaust air air-fuel ratio correction-factor KE and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM difference (KE-KM). At continuing Step 111, the fuel injection duration TAUM for main-fuel injection is computed, and the fuel injection duration TAUSS for secondary fuel injection is computed based on the following formula in continuing step 112a.

[0078] From the secondary TAUSS=TP-FAF-KI-KM fuel injection valve 131, secondary fuel injection is performed only for TAUSS. When the calculation flag is set in continuing Step 113, subsequently to step 114a it progresses, and the addition fuel injection duration STAU is computed based on the following formula.

Since other composition and operations are the same as that of the above-mentioned embodiment which is STAU=STAU+TAUM+TAUSS, they omit explanation.

[0079] Still more nearly another embodiment is shown in <u>drawing 17</u>. This embodiment differs in the embodiment and composition which are shown in <u>drawing 13</u> with the point that the secondary airinjection valve 132 is formed in the exhaust pipe 130 instead of. [the secondary fuel injection valve 131] In addition, it connects with the output port 26 through the drive circuit 32 of an electronic control unit 20, and the secondary air-injection valve 132 is controlled based on the output signal from an electronic control unit 20.

[0080] It is usually NOX also at this embodiment. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN, and it is NOX. Occlusion NOX of the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 It is NOX when an amount becomes more than a constant rate. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich. Moreover, NOX It is NOX, when it is judged that the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur and sulfur part discharge conditions are satisfied. It is NOX, the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 being heated temporarily. It is NOX, when the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is temporarily made rich and a sulfur part discharge operation is completed or interrupted. Let temporarily the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 be theoretical air fuel ratio.

[0081] NOX When the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 should be made RIN, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is made into RIN, and it is stopped by the secondary air injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 at this time. On the other hand, NOX When the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 to perform a discharge operation should be made rich, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is made rich, and it is stopped by the secondary air injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 at this time. Moreover, it is NOX to perform a sulfur part discharge operation. When the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 should be made rich, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is made rich, and secondary air injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 is performed at this time. in this case, unburnt [to exhaust air with the rich air-fuel ratio discharged by the engine / comparatively a lot of] -- if HC and CO are contained, therefore the secondary air-injection valve 132 performs secondary air injection -- this time -- NOX Oxygen, and a lot of HC and COs will be supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. Subsequently oxygen, and these HC and COs of a lot of are NOX. It reacts in the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and is NOX thus. The occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made to heat promptly to temperature sufficient for a sulfur part discharge operation. Moreover, it is NOX at this time. It will be NOX if the amount of secondary air injection is controlled so that the airfuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 becomes rich. A part for sulfur is emitted from the occlusion reduction catalyst 12. For example, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each cylinder is set to about 11.0, and the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the NOX occlusion reduction catalyst 12 with secondary air is set to about 14.0.

[0082] It is prevented at the time of starting that the catalyst 9 is located in an exhaust air upstream rather than the air nozzle hole of the secondary air-injection valve 132, therefore oxygen, and a lot of HC and COs flow into a catalyst 9 simultaneously at the time of starting so that <u>drawing 17</u> may show. Therefore, it also sets in this embodiment and is NOX. Oxygen, and a lot of HC and COs can be supplied to the occlusion reduction catalyst 12, and it becomes possible to fully perform a sulfur part discharge operation thus.

[0083] Drawing 20 shows the fuel-injection-duration calculation routine in this embodiment from drawing 18. In the fuel-injection-duration calculation routine which shows this routine by drawing 10 from drawing 8, even Steps 87-90 are transposed to Steps 87b and 88b. Even Steps 92-95 are transposed to Steps 92b and 93b. Even Steps 96-99 are transposed to Steps 96b and 97b. Even Steps 101-104 are transposed to Steps 101b and 102b, Step 112 is deleted to Steps 106-111, and Step 114 is transposed to step 114b. Moreover, the interruption routine explained with reference to drawing 6 from drawing 4 also in this embodiment is performed.

[0084] If a changed part is explained, it sets to Step 86 and is NOX. When the flag is reset, subsequently to step 87b it progresses, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 0.9, and the secondary injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 is stopped in continuing step 88b (OFF). That is, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into RIN, and it is NOX. The air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is made into RIN. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111, after progressing to Step 91 and setting a calculation flag. On the other hand, it sets to Step 86 and is NOX. When the flag is set, subsequently to step 92b it progresses, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 1.2, and the secondary air injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 is stopped in continuing step 88b (OFF). That is, it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is rich, and it is NOX. It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is rich. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111. [0085] On the other hand, when the sulfur part discharge flag is set in Step 85, subsequently to step 96b, it progresses, and main air-fuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 1.3, and secondary air injection of the secondary air-injection valve 132 is performed in continuing step 88b (ON). That is, it is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is rich, and it is NOX. It is supposed that the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 is also rich. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111. [0086] On the other hand, after computing the feedback correction factor FAF in Step 100, or after fixing the feedback correction factor FAF to 1.0 in Step 105, it progresses to step 101b, and main airfuel ratio amendment **** KM is set to 1.0, and the secondary air injection of the secondary airinjection valve 132 is stopped in continuing step 88b (OFF). That is, the air-fuel ratio of the gaseous mixture supplied to each combustion chamber by main-fuel injection is made into theoretical air fuel ratio, and it is NOX. Let the air-fuel ratio of the exhaust air which flows into the occlusion reduction catalyst 12 be theoretical air fuel ratio. Subsequently, it progresses to Step 111.

[0087] At Step 111, the fuel injection duration TAUM for main-fuel injection is computed. When the calculation flag is set in continuing Step 113, subsequently to step 114b it progresses, and the addition fuel injection duration STAU is computed based on the following formula.

Since other composition and operations are the same as that of the above-mentioned embodiment which is STAU=STAU+TAUM, they omit explanation.

[0088] At the embodiment described so far, it is NOX about the exhaust air purification catalyst 12. It forms from the occlusion reduction catalyst. However, you may form the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 from a three way component catalyst. Moreover, when it is distinguished that distinguished whether the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur, and the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 carried out poisoning by part for sulfur, it is made to reproduce the catalyst poisoning by part for the sulfur of the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 in the embodiment described so far. However, when the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 is distinguished as distinguished whether poisoning was carried out with exhaust air purification degradation matter like a meltable organic

component (SOF) or lead and the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 carried out poisoning with this exhaust air purification degradation matter, the catalyst poisoning by the exhaust air purification degradation matter of the exhaust air purification catalyst 12 can be reproduced.

[0089]

[Effect of the Invention] High-concentration HC and high-concentration oxygen can be supplied to an exhaust air purification catalyst, without being consumed with a catalyst at the time of starting, it being prevented that high-concentration HC and high-concentration, high-concentration oxygen flow into a catalyst simultaneously at the time of starting, therefore securing the good exhaust air cleaning effect at the time of engine starting.

[Translation done.]

* NOTICES *

Japan Patent Office is not responsible for any damages caused by the use of this translation.

- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is the general drawing of an internal combustion engine.

[Drawing 2] NOX NOX of an occlusion reduction catalyst It is drawing for explaining an absorption/emission action.

[Drawing 3] It is the diagram showing basic fuel injection duration.

[Drawing 4] It is the flow chart which shows an interruption routine.

[Drawing 5] It is the flow chart which shows an interruption routine.

[Drawing 6] It is the flow chart which shows an interruption routine.

[Drawing 7] Per [NOX] unit time NOX which flows into an occlusion reduction catalyst It is the diagram showing an amount.

[Drawing 8] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration.

[Drawing 9] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration.

[Drawing 10] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration.

Drawing 11] It is the general drawing of the internal combustion engine in which another embodiment is shown.

[Drawing 12] It is a flow chart for controlling a bypass-control valve.

[Drawing 13] It is the general drawing of the internal combustion engine in which still more nearly another embodiment is shown.

[Drawing 14] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in $\frac{\text{drawing } 13}{\text{drawing } 13}$.

[Drawing 15] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in drawing 13.

[Drawing 16] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in drawing 13.

[Drawing 17] It is the general drawing of the internal combustion engine in which still more nearly another embodiment is shown.

[$\underline{\text{Drawing 18}}$] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in $\underline{\text{drawing 17}}$.

[Drawing 19] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in drawing 17.

[Drawing 20] It is a flow chart for computing fuel injection duration in the embodiment shown in drawing 17.

[Description of Notations]

1a -- 1st cylinder group

1b -- 2nd cylinder group

7 -- Fuel injection valve

8, 8a, 8b -- Exhaust manifold

9, 9a, 9b -- It is a catalyst at the time of starting.

- 12 -- Exhaust air purification catalyst 37 -- By-path pipe 39 -- Bypass-control valve 131--secondary fuel injection valve 132--secondary air-injection valve

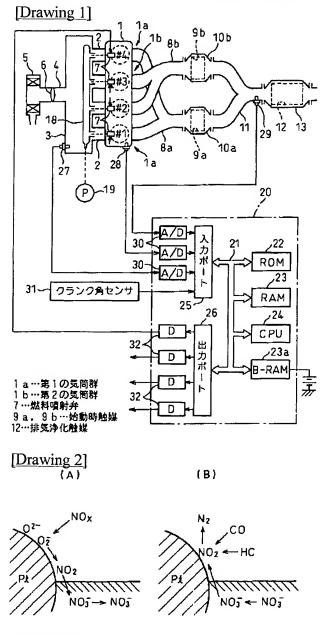
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* NOTICES *

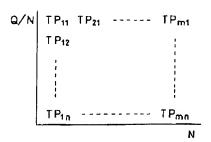
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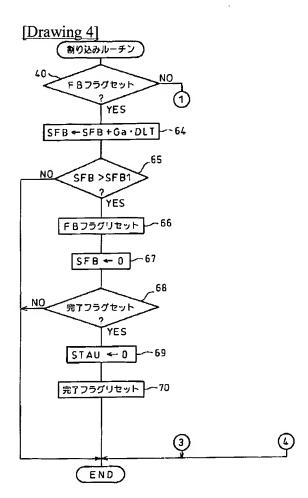
- 1. This document has been translated by computer. So the translation may not reflect the original precisely.
- 2.**** shows the word which can not be translated.
- 3.In the drawings, any words are not translated.

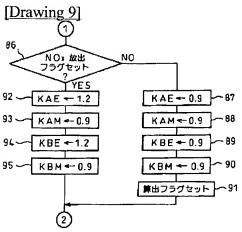
DRAWINGS



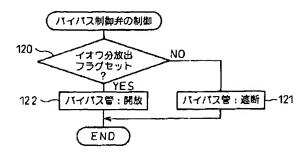
[Drawing 3]

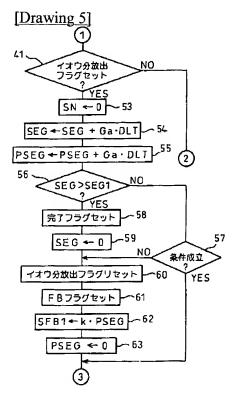


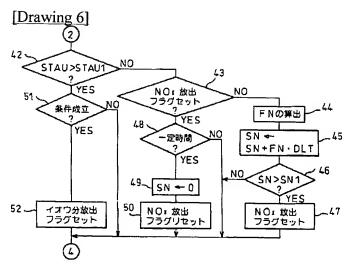




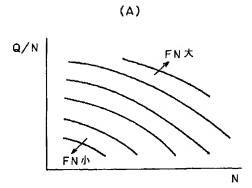
[Drawing 12]

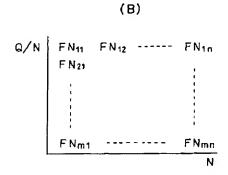


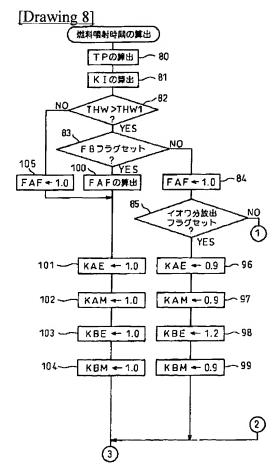


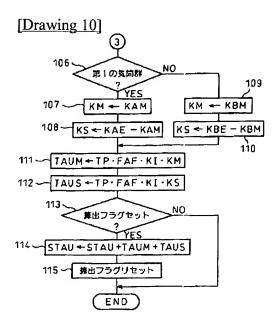


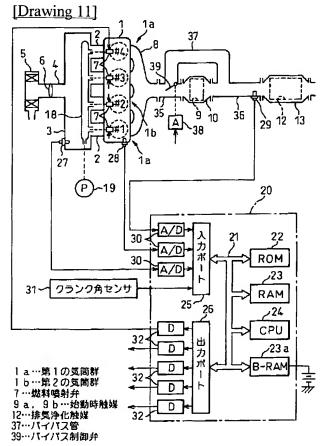
[Drawing 7]



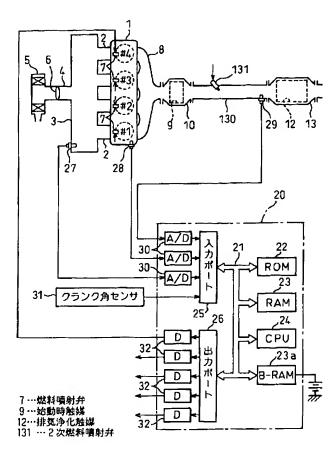


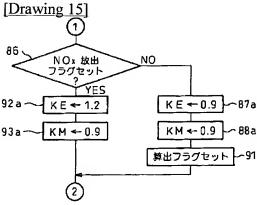




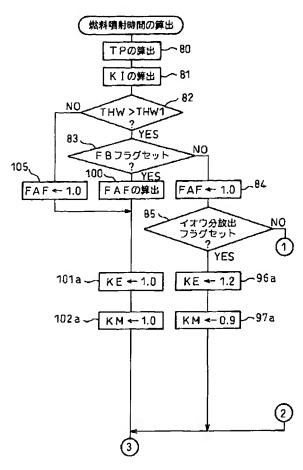


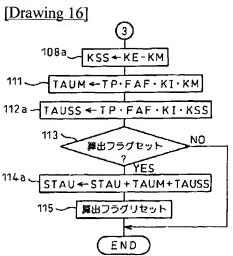
[Drawing 13]



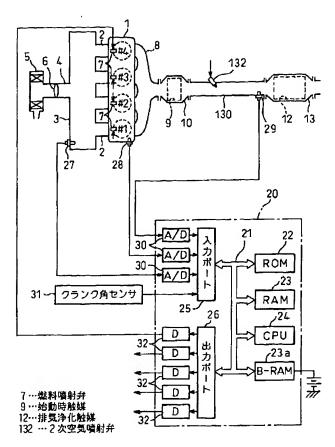


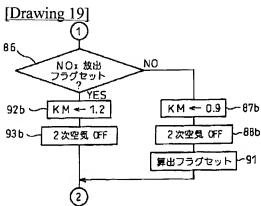
[Drawing 14]



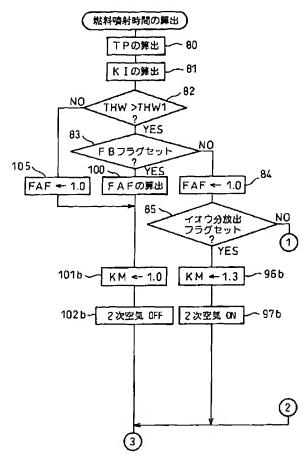


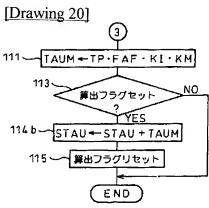
[Drawing 17]





[Drawing 18]





[Translation done.]